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An Historical Review of the State of Ireland, from the Invasion of that Country, under Henry the Second, to its Union with Great-Britain, on the 1st of January, 1801. By Francis Plowden, Esq. 3 *vols.* 4*to.* 4l. 4s. bds. Egerton. 1803.

IT is the fate of some kingdoms to afford ample matter to its historians, and of others, to be ill provided with what most interests and lays hold on the curiosity of mankind. The histories of England and Scotland, during some reigns, present a chain of occurrences which might pass for the fictions of Romance, and in the vicissitudes of kings and empires, so much is opened of private life and private character, that the passions are excited, whilst the understanding is informed.

In the tilts and tournaments of the reign of Edward, we have the history of a land of chivalry and gallantry; under the governments of a Henry and Elizabeth, the interest we feel for the fate of the unhappy mistresses of the one, and the yet unhappier favourites of the other, is so opposite to the tediousness of dry historical detail, that we can scarcely persuade ourselves that we are reading a series of undoubted facts, or the annals of the country that gave us birth.

But whilst England and Scotland can boast this allurement for the reader, it is to be regretted that their Sister kingdom possesses it but in a small proportion. During many centuries, whilst the rest of Europe was in its course of civilization, Ireland was under the cloud. Rude, savage, and uncultivated, she was doomed to lengthen out the term of barbarism beyond its usual extent, and afford a singular example of a people, in the neighbourhood of polished societies, stubbornly averse from discipline, and wedded to a savage life. Ireland did not, like the rest of Europe, partake of the beneficial effects of the feudal system, which contributed in a high degree to the progress of civilization; her territory was divided into petty provinces, each under the government of petty kings, who taught their subjects nothing but to ravage and attack their neighbours, and to resist similar ravages and assaults on themselves. Ireland could boast of no regular system of agriculture, and was thus a constant prey to indigence and sloth; in manufactures she was still less expert, and for many ages could scarcely clothe or feed her inhabitants. The arts, which had been revived almost from extinction, which had enlightened the minds and softened the manners of other people, had their progress checked in Ireland, where humanity seemed to delight in its lowest degradation, and man to consider himself happier as he was more allied to the brute creation.

In such a situation did this unhappy country remain for many centuries,—a country which no traveller could approach, and which was thus cut off from one great source of improvement, that which is produced by mutual intercourse, and the interchange of sentiments and opinions.

William the Conqueror seems wholly to have neglected Ireland, and those, who immediately succeeded him, seemed to have considered it as a waste of barbarism, and thus, by its barrenness, exempt from the trouble of conquest, and the unproductiveness of hostility. Henry the Second appears first to have turned his thoughts to its subjection, which he accomplished so far as

to dethrone some of the kings, but left little influence which survived his departure. From that time, however, Ireland was considered as a conquered country, but its submission was neither voluntarily nor easily enforced.—It was unproductive of all revenue, and was so difficult to hold, that even ambition itself might be supposed to repine at the cost of conquest. From the time of Henry to the Reformation, for more than 400 years, the English and Irish were engaged in one continued scene of warfare. Ireland may be thus said rather to have exhausted England in ineffectual struggles to subdue her, than to have fallen prostrate at the feet of her conquerors: to England she was a perpetual charge of men and money, and the sovereignty, which repeated victories purchased over her, was at last but nominal.

It was not till the reign of Elizabeth that England could assume the credit of having enlarged her empire: under that wise and prudent princess, this long contended land was united in its general government to the crown of Great-Britain: Henry the Eighth had assumed the title without the possession; queen Elizabeth became mistress of both.

In the following reigns, Ireland was governed by a viceroy, who was uniformly obedient to the English crown, and possessed a military power sufficient to make the people obedient likewise. The English began now to colonise the country, and were enabled, by the frequency of rebellion, either by purchase or present from the monarch, to possess themselves of large tracts of lands, forfeited by treason and revolt. This was the foundation of the Protestant power.

Among other conflicts which chastised this unhappy kingdom, those of religious zeal were not wanting to complete the measure of its wretchedness. The Reformation had made small progress in Ireland. The Papists exceeded the Protestants by a hundred to one, and the task of conversion, in which the latter were engaged, was obstructed by the most outrageous zeal. James the First was a bigot, and endeavoured warmly to crush the Roman catholic faith in Ireland, and succeeded so far as to endanger almost the utter extermination of his own. Every county rose in rebellion: forfeiture and confiscation were proclaimed, but the decree of law was eluded by the force of arms. Under the reign of this monarch the whole landed interest was changed. Six northern counties were forfeited at once, and planted by Scots and English. The distribution of the forfeited lands must have been in this time a rich prerogative. The most imprudent act of James was that of the solemn publication of the act of Conformity. After the intermission of near thirty years James convened a parliament, in which was laid the first basis of Protestant ascendancy. The Catholic party seceded, and referred their grievance to the king, but met with no redress. A strong act of authority was enforced in the creation of forty new boroughs.

The government of Ireland, under Charles, presents an unvaried succession of melancholy events. The Irish expected a toleration of religion.—The character of Charles's court was little favourable to such a demand.—The king, who had already tried the experiment of reducing all men to the same opinion in Scotland, with what success is well known, resolved to remit nothing of the laws of conformity in Ireland, but commanded a severe persecution of the catholics. The dreadful effects of the rebellion it is needless to dilate upon: Ireland was now one constant scene of massacre and devastation. The Protestants were for a time overborne; treason had broken out three hundred thousand strong, and England herself, who was now upon the eve of domestic embroilment, could afford them little assistance.

The parliament, indeed, shamefully neglected the state of Ireland, and, to their hatred of the king, sacrificed what was due to their protestant brethren. Their abhorrence of popery was a secondary passion to that of resisting

sisting the royal authority. The conduct of Ormond, in Ireland, is well known; his irresolution and ambiguous conduct. On the death of Charles, he proclaimed the prince of Wales king.

When the government fell into the hands of Cromwell, Ireland became the scene of his victories; but rather of his cruelty than his military valour. Charles the Second, whom the Irish catholics would at first willingly have obeyed, disgusted them by taking the covenant in Scotland. Cromwell succeeded in subduing Ireland, but, to their honour be it spoken, the Irish catholics were the last who submitted to the regicides.

At the restoration, the state of Ireland was deplorable; and the wretchedness of the catholics was yet more augmented by the ingratitude of Charles. That he could not oblige all was in this case no excuse; the catholics asked no favour of him but the remission of unjust severities. They were ready to be faithful to his cause when no one else would espouse it, and their fidelity had exasperated the revenge of Cromwell and his soldiers.

During the latter part of Charles's reign, Ormond governed Ireland.—The character and conduct of this man have already been the subject of so many books that we may be spared a comment. Great, indeed, was the exultation of the catholics on the accession of James; the buds of popish hope were now opening into flower, and the prosperity of a long persecuted faith was now considered as certain. Ireland was soon distinguished by the royal favour, but the gratification of the catholics was the cause of incurable jealousy to the protestants. They all associated against the king, and were ripe for rebellion, long before his abdication. But popish prosperity soon met with an unexpected blast; the king fled, and, to regain his kingdom, landed in Ireland with succours from France, and was rapturously received by the whole body of the catholics.

An army of thirty thousand men was raised for James, who marched in triumph to Dublin, and was again acknowledged king. Ireland was now in a critical state, and was to become the scene of the whole contest between William and James. But the event was soon decided,—the battle of Boyne intercepted the hopes of the catholics, and drove the king a fugitive, for the second time, to the court of Louis the fourteenth.

During the reign of William and Mary, Ireland was treated as a conquered country. The petitions of the catholics were rejected with contempt.—The English power was now predominant, and the protestants in the sun of their prosperity. The commerce of Ireland now received its first check; the exportation of wool and woollen manufactures was prohibited by the English legislature, and in the subsequent contests between the king and the parliaments the rights of Ireland were wholly overlooked.

In the reign of Anne, notwithstanding the oppression of the Irish, the country was more tranquil than in any other period; but, for its abject and degraded state, we have only to consult a judicious observer of mankind, the Dean of St. Patrick.

The English test act, in all its rigour, became a statute law in Ireland; the corruption of the parliament was notorious, and the ascendancy of the protestant party was more confirmed than ever; but, to the credit of the catholics, it may be affirmed, that, since the accession of the House of Hanover, no effort was ever made to reinstate the Stuarts.

As we have now reached those times in which the variety of events in both kingdoms will not permit compression in a few lines, we must be excused following the reigns of the three latter monarchs, and passing judgment upon the conduct of the British legislature towards the people of Ireland. In the short picture we have presented from Mr. Plowden's work, the reader will perceive the extent of his plan—to give an ample history of Ireland from its earliest periods, to the Union, of which we are glad to find him a warm,

zealous, and well-instructed advocate. In the earlier parts of his history we are pleased that he is rapid and concise; he passes over what is dull and uninteresting, as a passenger through a barren country, with his windows drawn, and his blinds up; but here the comparison breaks, for he is never caught napping.

This work contains altogether 1200 pages, and only 322 are consumed in the historical relation previous to the reign of his present majesty. This we expect will delight the reader no less than it has done us, who, to confess a truth, were fearful of being called to the perusal of the wars of petty kings and chieftains, and a more extended narrative of the rebellion of Tyrone. Our readers will therefore conceive, that only part of the first volume is devoted to the history of the earlier reigns, and that, towards the end, they are introduced to scenes and events with which most of them are familiar. From the accession of his present Majesty, Mr. Plowden is full and circumstantial, but not with tediousness and minuteness. His work has in this respect novelty to recommend it: this is, we believe, the first regular and connected history of the affairs of Ireland which has been presented to the public, during the reign of George the Third. There are many histories of Ireland, indeed, but none come down even so low as the termination of the American war. This work, therefore, we are happy to announce to the public: it has pleased us extremely on perusal, and taught us a great deal of which we were before ignorant. Mr. Plowden has the proper temper of an historian: he is a man of no extravagant zeal, or bigotted prejudices, and above all, has none of that partiality to antiquarian minuteness, the rage of which has spoilt so many authors.

He has placed the Union in the fairest light, and, in his history of the rebellion, though his accounts jar with those of others who have written on the same subject, we cannot help believing that he is almost the only one who has arrived at the truth. He has surveyed the state of Ireland with a very shrewd observation, and the advice he offers, with respect to the catholics, is, as far as we have had an opportunity of comparing the contrary arguments, the most judicious and rational. Mr. Plowden's style is clear and manly; and his work contains so much useful matter, that it is our opinion that it will not only be popular for its day, but that it may safely be considered as a work formed for duration.

The Political and Confidential Correspondence of Lewis the Sixteenth; with Observations on each Letter. By Helen Maria Williams. 3 vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. bds. Robinson. 1803.

THE singular principles of this lady are well known, but we have now only to do with the singularity of the work before us. It must be confessed to contain as much curious and interesting matter as almost any publication of the day.

It is pleasing to see the character of a deluded but well intentioned monarch displayed in its proper colours; the slander of his enemies had the effect of defeating itself; and it is now readily acknowledged by the sturdiest champions of the revolution, that the storm which burst upon a pious unoffending sovereign, was cruel and unprovoked.

The first enquiry respecting this book must be concerning its authenticity. To all posthumous publications, more particularly letters, suspicion constantly adheres. The French kings have been peculiarly unfortunate in their posthumous works. Our readers will remember the volumes of Letters attributed to Louis XIV. and the repeated detections made by Voltaire of his forged correspondence. The motives which have led to the present publication are stated in the preface to the intended French edition of these letters. The English are, however, the first guests, and Miss Williams has invited them

them to a feast which has not yet been served up to those whose claim is certainly greater.

'Many respectable writers have attempted to reconcile the memory of 'this good king with the esteem of his cotemporaries, which he never de- 'served to have lost. Their works have been read with avidity, and the 'pages have been bathed with the tears of regret: but it never entered in- 'to the mind of any person to paint the unfortunate monarch by his most se- 'cret thoughts, by extracts from his manuscripts, by his analysis, by his 'public and private correspondence.'

This is the reason for publishing all kind of letters; but the intention in the present publication is so good as to overpower objection; it is 'to scat- 'ter a few flowers over the tomb of a prince the friend of mankind, whose 'apotheosis will surely be one day made by future generations.'

Any thing but his *Apotheosis*.—The distinction paid to Voltaire and Rousseau would not be coveted for their sovereign by the friends of Louis XVI. It is strange that the praise of a modern French writer, even when we admire the subject of his eulogy, must be retrenched to be made palatable.

The most important point is to be assured of the authenticity of these letters. Miss W. tells us, that the French editor, in the note which precedes his preface, states that the originals are deposited in the hands of a personage who will think it a pleasure and a duty to communicate them to such as are incredulous and curious.

This has at first the appearance of evasion, because the offer is easily made, seldom accepted, and of very easy denial. The manuscripts should be lodged in some public institution, where their authenticity would soon be brought to the test. Miss Williams does not, however, appear to have the least doubts on this head. 'Independent of the external 'proofs,' she says, 'which are conclusive to those who are acquainted 'with the hand-writing of the king, such measures have been taken as 'appeared to me fully satisfactory, to arrive at the greatest supplemen- 'tary proof, by consulting such persons as were most likely to be informed 'on the subject. The proofs which I have obtained from men who now fill 'eminent offices under the republic, and from others who exercised the high- 'est functions under Louis the Sixteenth, and who were consequently in- 'structed both as to the spirit and the letter, have no doubt whatever with 'respect to the authenticity of these papers.'

Something is yet wanting fully to convince us. The *spirit* of the letters is complete *cant*: the hand-writing indeed is evidence, but such evidence as is not wholly without suspicion. Of publications of this nature we have a natural desire to learn the method by which they came into the hands of the editor, so as to trace them at once to their proper source. We all know the suspicion entertained of the authenticity of Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, and the little weight which the *spirit* and the alledged hand-writing of the author had in the controversy, till a duplicate of the manuscript was fortunately discovered.

We do not mean to cry down these letters as palpable forgeries, but only to express a wish that they had come before us with a greater portion of evidence.

The first volume is intended to present us with the character of Louis the Sixteenth as a private man; though he is introduced as holding a correspondence with his principal ministers of state, and, therefore, cannot be expected to develope much of his private character. The greatest part of the second, and all the third volume, consist of his public letters, discourses, memorials, observations, writings, the analysis of a few of his works, all of which, we are told, were to exhibit the last king of France, as an enlightened prince, fit to govern a polished and powerful people, of a capacity to become

come his own minister, and execute his own projects; of a judgment deep and penetrating, and worthy of having his observations upon mankind transmitted to posterity.

This publication, however, seems swelled out to an unnecessary length. The letters of the king are first given in the original French, then translated, and, lastly, Miss Williams brings up the rear with a commentary on each letter. This is to encrease the bulk of the book with an awkwardness not less unpleasing than uncustomary. Miss Williams' comments should either have been given as notes, or not at all; and for what we can see of the matter, had they been omitted altogether, the publication would not have suffered. They are notwithstanding frequently full of very shrewd observation, knowledge of character and political events; but the commentator is useless when the text is intelligible.

The observations on the letters are written with more partiality than we expected from this lady. In commenting on the character of the king she cannot altogether be accused of insensibility or injustice, though she is frequently suspicious without a reason, and directs the opinion of the reader erroneously, as to many important circumstances and events.

If the king were really the author of these letters, they reflect the highest credit upon his humanity, his understanding, and talents as a legislator; but the difficult question again occurs, which we would willingly evade, and repose, if we could, in full confidence on their authenticity.

Undoubtedly, there is a species of testimony which we are bound to admit, which is yet very far from irrefragable proof; but the evidence should always be sufficient to the matter in debate; it should be as much as could be brought, and when we get all we are able, we should then form the best opinions we can. But here there is a material deficiency in the link of proof; if the hand-writing can be proved, for the *spirit* is ridiculous, why cannot the conveyance of the letters be likewise ascertained? How did the editors come by them? Where were they found? All these questions will be put, and must be answered. To refer such as are incredulous to people of distinction, who will adduce incontestible evidence of their authenticity, is an offer easily made, and easily evaded.

Thus the reader must at last take them upon trust, and be content to fluctuate between contrary opinions. There is a sufficiency of evidence to make us examine, but not enough to determine us either one way or the other.—We proceed to extract a letter to the minister Malesherbes. This celebrated personage had occupied the office of secretary of state about nine months previous to the date of the letter subjoined.—Letter iv. vol. 1st, page 46.

TO M. DE MALESHERBES.

Versailles, April 17, 1776.

'I had no power to express to you, my dear Malesherbes, in our last interview, all the chagrin I felt at your determined resolution of resigning your place in the ministry. After having maturely reflected on this subject, I shall unfold my heart to you, and shall commit my ideas to paper, that they may not escape my memory. Surrounded as I am by men who are interested in misleading my principles, and preventing the voice of public opinion from reaching my ear, it is of the highest importance to the prosperity of my reign, that I should sometimes be able to repose my eyes with satisfaction on a few sages of my own choice, whom I may call the friends of my heart, and who will warn me of my errors, before they have influenced the destiny of twenty-four millions of men. You, together with the wise Maurepas, and the intrepid Turgot, are the men in my dominions who have the highest claim to my confidence; and you must not lead our common enemies to imagine that you are on the point of losing that confidence, at the very moment when you most deserve it. When

'When Maurepas presented your name to me as one of those who were best fitted to give weight to my plans of beneficence, I examined in silence your public and private life, and perceived that I should perhaps be happier in offering you a great place than you in receiving it. Before your first presidency, my *Cour des aides* was a company ill organized, and corrupted by the financiers, whom we had placed under its inspection. A comptroller-general never found any opposition when he presented odious fiscal edicts.

'You appeared, my dear Malesherbes: you have driven from this corps the members who dishonoured it; and it is now become, agreeably to its primitive institution, the asylum of the indigent and oppressed. Nature gave you the soul of a citizen, and you have transfused it into your *Cour des Aides;* at least, if I may judge by the vigorous remonstrances which you have dictated, and which I have placed, in my chosen library, between the Catilinarians of Cicero, and the Philippics of Demosthenes. I am not indeed sure whether it be useful to throw matters so philosophical across a monarchical constitution, which so many have an interest in shaking: but your remonstrances breathed the spirit of public good: they explained to me the disorders which my court and my ministers had conspired to hide; and I have considered them only under this point of view. Notwithstanding, therefore, they hold forth some principles to which I could not assent, I inwardly applauded your courage, and felt that you had a right to my gratitude. Our interviews, at which Maurepas was present to judge us both, served to increase my esteem; and I gave you that department of my house vacant by the dismission of la Vrilliere. You long balanced whether you should come, and breathe the air of my court, so ill in sympathy with the interesting simplicity of your manners. Turgot made you understand that, without your aid, he could operate no durable good: he determined you, and I esteemed him the more.

'You began your ministry with a degree of vigour no way contrary to my principles, by refusing to make use of *lettres de cachet*, which were so much complained of, and of which your predecessor disposed at the will of his favourites. The Bastile overflowed with prisoners, who, after years of confinement, were sometimes ignorant of their crimes; and you restored to liberty all those who had only to reproach themselves with having displeased those gentlemen in power, and such of the guilty as had been too severely punished. You undertook useful reforms in my military establishment: but many persons conceived alarms. I had reason to apprehend that the discontent might produce troubles resembling those of the League, and the Fronde; and I was obliged to reserve for a happier period the moment so dear to my heart, when, banishing vain pomp, I shall have composed my household of men of worth, such as you, who surround me, and shall have for guards the hearts of the French.

'It is in this strong juncture, my dear Malesherbes, you ask leave to retire! No, I will not grant your request: you are too necessary to my service; and, when you have read the whole of this letter, I know enough of your sensibility to believe that you will cease your demand. Besides, it is not at the very moment when you are obliged to yield to circumstances, that you ought to give in your resignation. The court will think you in disgrace; and that word, when it relates to a subject so respectable as yourself, ought never to pass my lips. I expect you to-morrow at Maurepas'.—Be assured of my esteem and friendship. 'LEWIS.'

Then follows the commentary on the letter by Miss Williams, in which every allusion, unintelligible to the general reader, is sufficiently developed. This is frequently spun out to too great a length—for, without the commentary, all the letters attributed to Louis the Sixteenth, would scarcely make a thin octavo volume.

An

An Essay on the Principles of Population: or a View of its past and present Effects on human Happiness; with an Enquiry into our Prospects respecting the future Removal or Mitigation of the Evils which it occasions. By R. T. Malthus, A. M. Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. 4to. 420 pp. 1l. 11s. 6d. Johnson, 1803.

THIS work is upon a subject of public economy, interesting at all times to the politician and the observer of human manners. The wealth of a kingdom is the industry of its population; and as all governments were formed for the permanence and prosperity of society, it seems the first duty of a state to regard the condition of its subjects, to multiply them by the best laws which influence domestic relations, and to apply to the disease of a decaying population the greatest wisdom of its counsels and its power. How much the flourishing state of a people depends upon good laws, is sufficiently evident in a review of those kingdoms which have neglected to institute them. In Turkey, where, in the words of the orator, the human race melts away before the eye of the observer, this disease of society is felt to its worst extent; but in the other kingdoms of Europe, the population of one country seems to keep pace with that of another, with the exception of Spain and Italy.

This is an argument that the free states are not more favourable to population than the despotic governments; and that it is upon laws of a different species that population must depend.

The work before us was published as a pamphlet in the year 1798, and has now, from the author's conciousness of the imperfection of his first plan, and the encouragement of the public, grown to a quarto, where it will perhaps stand.

The author informs us, that, in the course of his enquiry, he found more had been done than he was aware of when he published his essay. The poverty and misery arising from a too rapid increase of population had been distinctly seen, and the most violent remedies proposed since the times of Aristotle and Plato. Of late years the subject had been treated in such a manner by the French economists, and many of our own writers, as to create a natural surprise that it had not more attracted public attention. But much was yet to be done—some of the most curious and interesting parts of the subjects had been slightly touched; though it had been distinctly stated that population must always be kept down to the level of the means of subsistence, yet few enquiries had been made into the modes by which this level is effected; the principle had never been sufficiently pursued to its consequences, and the proper inferences drawn from its investigation.

Thus to supply what was before deficient is the object of this author, and on these points he treats in detail in the following essay.

The present work, however, is to be considered as a new work; and we may be permitted to say, that the subject of population has never been handled in a way more masterly and scientific. The main principles advanced are so incontrovertible, that the author need not fear an attack; and his inferences, if not altogether self-evident, will perhaps be no sufferers by candid controversy.

Throughout the whole of the present work, he tells us, he has so far differed from the former in principle, as to suppose another check to population possible, which does not strictly come under the head either of vice or misery: and in the latter part he has softened some of the harshest conclusions of his first essay. To those, he says, who shall think that any check to population whatever, would be worse than the evils it would relieve, the conclusions of the former essay will remain in full force; and if we adopt this opinion, we shall be compelled to acknowledge that the poverty and misery which prevail among the lower classes of society are absolutely irremediable.

He then speaks of the pains he has taken to avoid errors in the facts and calculations in the course of his work, and adds—'To those who take an interest in moral and political questions, I hope that the novelty and importance of the subject will compensate the imperfections of its execution.'

We are indeed startled at the many new observations offered in this book, and are equally afraid of the charge of tardy acquiescence, as of the reproach of precipitate approbation. We must, however, claim the indulgence both of our readers and this author, and beg permission to postpone our decision on a question which will consume much of our time to examine with accuracy. This incertitude, however, may be construed in favour of the author; by advancing so many new and forcible arguments, he has made us pause on a subject upon which we had heretofore made up our minds. We shall give a rapid analysis of the contents of this book. The work is divided into four books. The first book considers the checks to population in the less civilized parts of the world, and in past times. In this book, under separate heads and chapters, a review is taken of the obstructions of population among the American Indians, the ancient inhabitants of the north of Europe, the modern pastoral nations, and the kingoms of Africa, the Turkish dominions, and Persia, Tibet, Indostan, China, and Japan; and lastly the checks to population among the Greeks and Romans.

Book 2nd considers the checks to population in the different states of modern Europe. After investigating the causes from which it arises in the several kingdoms, he forms a general deduction as to the state of society from his preceding views.

Having finished his survey of this evil as it existed in the remotest kingdoms and most distant periods, and having traced its progress among modern empires, and in modern times, he commences his third book with a review of the different systems and expedients which have been proposed or have prevailed in society, as they affect the evils arising from the principle of population. He considers here the system of equality as proposed by Condorcet and other French philosophers; the effects of emigration; the tendency of the English poor laws; and the increasing wealth of the kingdom, as it affects the condition of the poor. He then passes to more general questions, but never flags in pursuit of his main principle. He enters upon an enquiry into the nature of our agricultural and commercial systems, and determines their different effects. He next considers the reasonableness of bounties on the exportation of corn; and then passes to investigate the principal sources of the prevailing errors on the subject of population.

The fourth book treats of our future prospects respecting the removal or mitigation of the evils arising from the principle of population. In this are considered the great moral duties of life, as they more particularly affect the happiness of society. He here proposes what he has persuaded himself to think the most effectual mode of improving the condition of the poor, and exhibits a plan for the gradual abolition of the poor laws. He then endeavours to correct the prevailing errors on the subject of population, and closes with a display of our natural expectations respecting the future improvement of society.

The author thus expresses himself on the method generally pursued for ascertaining the population of a kingdom:—

'It must indeed have appeared to the readers, in the course of this work, 'that registers of births or deaths, excluding any suspicion of deficiencies, 'must at all times afford very uncertain data for an estimate of population. 'On account of the varying circumstances of every country, they are both 'very precarious guides in this respect; but of the two, perhaps, the births 'still more so than the deaths; though from the greater apparent regularity 'of the former, political calculators have generally adopted them as the

'ground of their estimates, in the preference of the latter. Necker, in estimating the population of France, observes, that an epidemic disease or an emigration may occasion temporary differences in the deaths, and that therefore the number of births is the most certain criterion. But the very circumstance of the apparent regularity of the births in the registers will now and then lead into the grossest errors. If in any country we can obtain registers of burials for two or three years together, a plague or mortal epidemic will always shew itself, from the very sudden increase of the deaths during its operation, and the still greater diminution of them afterwards. From these appearances we should of course be directed not to include the whole of a great mortality, in any very short term of years.—But there would be nothing of this kind to guide us in our registers of births; and after a country had lost an eighth part of its population by a plague, an average of the five or six subsequent years would probably shew an increase in the number of births, and our calculations would give the population at the highest at the very time that it was at the lowest. This appears very strikingly in many of Susmilch's Tables, and most particularly in the table for Prussia and Lithuania, which I have inserted in chap. vi. of this book, where, in the year subsequent to the loss of one-third of the population, the births were considerably increased, and, in an average of five years, but very little diminished; and this at a time when, of course, the country could have made but very small progress towards recovering its former population.'

We do not know indeed of any extraordinary mortality which has occurred in England since 1700; and there are reasons for supposing that the proportions of the births and deaths to the population, during the last century, have not experienced such great variations as in many countries on the continent; at the same time it is certain, that the sickly seasons which are known to have occurred, would, in proportion to the degree of their fatality, produce similar effects; and the change which has been observed in the mortality of late years should dispose us to believe that similar changes might formerly have taken place respecting the births, and should instruct us to be extremely cautious in applying any proportions, which are observed to be true at present, to past or future periods.

It is certain, that at the present period, the most rapid march is made in the augmentation of human society; but it is no less certain, that many fatal obstructions impede the increase of population, to which the wisdom of the legislature might be applied, either to diminish or remove. As the strength of a nation is another term for the number of its inhabitants, England cannot pride herself upon the former, without taking the most prudent measures to multiply the latter; and for this end the present author points out many effectual means. Whether his reasoning will altogether stand the test is more than we dare venture to assert; but it has an appearance of more truth than is generally met with in propositions depending on untried experiments.

History of the Insurrection of the County of Wexford, A. D. 1798; *including an Account of the Transactions preceding that Event; with an Appendix. Embellished with an elegant Map of the County of Wexford. By Edward Hay, Esq. Member of the Royal Irish Academy.* 8vo. 7s. 6d. Stockdale.

WEXFORD was the principal scene of the late Irish rebellion, and an account of the insurrection in that province may be supposed to contain every thing of importance relative to an event, the effects of which we now feel, and of which the apprehension has not yet ceased of their being about to be renewed. 'I would not obtrude myself upon public attention,' says

says this author, 'were I not earnestly solicited by numerous and respectable 'friends to give a genuine account of the transactions in the county of Wex- 'ford during the insurrection, in the year 1798, in order to counteract the 'baleful effects of the partial details and hateful misrepresentations which 'have contributed so much to revive and continue those loathsome preju- 'dices that have for centuries disturbed and distracted Ireland. It is con- 'ceived that a fair and impartial account, by dissipating error, may operate 'as a balm to heal the wounds of animosity; for let the candid reader be of 'what political principles he may, I am confident he must be sensible that 'no adherent of either of the contending parties in this unhappy country 'can, in justification, feel himself authorized to assert, that his own party 'was perfectly in the right, and the other egregiously in the wrong; and 'and yet there are partisans to be found on either side, endeavouring to 'maintain that this is actually the case. But if these zealots could be in- 'duced calmly to listen to the melancholy tales of enormity that can unfor- 'tunately be told of both parties, they would be prevailed upon to relax a 'little in their prejudices. If the spirit of intolerance and retaliation be still 'held up, no kind of social intercourse or harmony can exist in Ireland.— 'With a view, therefore, of establishing concord, by shewing, from what has 'happened, that it will be of universal advantage to forget the past, and to 'cultivate general amity in future, I have undertaken the arduous task of 'endeavouring to reconcile, pointing out errors, by a genuine relation of 'facts; and I hope this may eventually prevail upon neighbours of all de- 'scriptions to cherish the blessings of union and mutual benevolence, which 'cannot fail of banishing from their breasts every rankling idea, and must 'prevent them from ever again becoming the easy tools of political specula- 'tion, which unfortunately hitherto encouraged hatred and variance, and 'ended in the miserable debility and oppression of all.'

Whatever may be the intentions of this author, we are bound upon his professions, which we have no reason for suspecting, to believe him impartial and loyal; but the worst effects may be produced by this work at the present moment. Undoubtedly in the Irish rebellion there was great mismanagement on the side of government, and perhaps it would be difficult altogether to clear it of unnecessary rigor: but when we look to the complexion of the times and the temper of the people when it happened, it will seem somewhat miraculous that a rebellion, so extensive and formidable, was suppressed with so little loss of blood and judicial punishment of the rebels; and that, with so many examples of atrocities committed by one party, the retaliation of the military was not more severe. Those who reason on what ought to have been done, have arguments in support of their humanity which do not apply to the state of Ireland. The atrocities of soldiers let loose to quell rebellion must always shock a calm observer; but these abuses have always been exaggerated, and were never countenanced by the officers. The conduct of government is best seen in the mildness of the executive power, when, the insurrection being put down, the course of judicial penalties commenced. And here we have an instance of temperance and forbearance, perhaps criminally indulgent. Let us contrast it with the conduct of the French in La Vendee, and thence derive an argument in favor of the humanity of the English government, with reasons of additional execration of the atrocities of the French directors.

Ireland is now, perhaps, on the eve of another great explosion, and Mr. Hay seems to think so: this is a strong reason why his book had better have been suppressed.—It must be confessed however to be written with a great deal of seeming candour and benevolence. The story it tells is full of interest, and, in the long succession of melancholy events, we are forced to drop a tear, and sympathize in the unhappy fate of a sister kingdom, allied

to us for ages, and now, perhaps, about to break her bonds of *union*, which we had hoped would have bound her closer to her own interests as well as ours.

To pacify Ireland must now be the policy of government, by every reasonable concession in its power. The last ministry, we have good reason to suppose, were favorable to a limited relaxation of those severe penalties which oppress the Roman Catholics, and it is thought they intended to relieve them. To deny them, at this period, would be as impolitic as unjust.

Critical and Philosophical Essays, by the Author of the Adviser. 8vo. 340 pp. 5s. bds. Wallis, 1803.

THE author of these essays has of late been frequently before the public, sometimes in his own name, at other times secretly. We had occasion to notice, in our last Review but one, his Adviser and Tractate on General Education, without knowing, till his present confession, that he was the author of either of those works. Of the former we could not speak as well as we wished, and the latter we considered as philosophical and scientific, but not much adapted to the times. With his present Essays we have reason to be better pleased than with any other of his compositions: there is a kind of oddity and an offensive coarseness about them, but they are pregnant with observations drawn from the realities of life, and not from the fictions of fancy. We confess, however, that we do not perfectly understand the principles of this gentleman, who seems variably orthodox and regular by fits and starts. He is strangely given to hypothesis, and not wanting in ingenuity to support it; but his great deficiency is in elegant and tasty literature; when he is strong, he is coarse, and when he attempts to trifle, he is insipid and absurd. His Philosophical Essays have a tincture of originality, but the novelty is for the most part displeasing; his critical remarks are sometimes just and striking, though rude and ill-mannered. He is very ridiculous in his encomiums on Miss Bailie's plays, which have been praised much more than they deserve, and which, though full of strong passion and feeling, have little poetry and no dramatic art.

The Wanderer; or, a Collection of original Tales and Essays, founded upon Facts, illustrating the Virtues and Vices of the present Age; in which are introduced the Oriental Travels of a learned Mahometan of the last Century; interspersed with original Poetry. By Charles Fothergill, Esq. 2 Vols. 12mo. 10s. bds. Wynne and Scholey, 1803.

THESE tales and essays are excessively ingenious, and have given us considerable pleasure on perusal. We are told that they are founded on facts, but many of them seem too extraordinary to come within the verge of probability. The travels of Abdallah are written in the eastern style, and have a great deal of that glowing imagery which should distinguish compositions of this kind; the language is elevated without inflation, and is never turgid and bombastic. The poetry, of which there is a plenty, might have been multiplied without fatiguing the reader. It is extremely simple, and sometimes elegant. Upon the whole, we are not satisfied with our first perusal, but expect, at the latter end of the month, when the more pressing anxieties of our business shall be over, to find time to read the *Wanderer* again.

An Historical View of the English Government from the Settlement of the Saxons in Britain, to the Revolution, in 1688. To which are subjoined some Dissertations connected with the History of the Government, from the Revolution to the present Time. By John Millar, Esq. Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow. In four vols. 8vo. 2l. 275 pages. Mawman, 1803.

WE are given to understand that the following work is published by the friends of the author, who has long since paid the debt of nature, but has left something behind him which will keep alive the recollection of his name. The first part of this work, if we may judge by the dedication, was meant to be published in 1786, but the continuation of the Historical View of the English Government down to the present reign is now for the first time submitted to the reader.

It has generally been observed that works of this nature are composed after the peculiar prejudices of the writer; who, if imbued with what are called the old Tory principles, will seek in the review of the ancient Saxon and Norman æras, precedents to justify the excess of regal power, and throw a stain upon our annals as unfavourable, at all periods, to constitutional liberty.

With this temper, to prove us in all seasons slaves, and thus to contend in a covert manner against the growth of our freedom at the present day, many of our historians have written. Hume himself is not entirely free from this prejudice, and, with all his candour, is frequently less displeased by the excesses of royal power than a philosopher and an Englishman ought to be. The zealous whig writes with another motive; but his desire is so natural, and his discovery, if he has the appearance of success, so pleasing, that we voluntarily yield to the delusion, and are content to antedate our freedom for some centuries, and trace in the first elements of society in this island the shape and form of our present constitution.

The advertisement, which relates merely to the latter publication, informs us that it was the intention of the author to divide the history, from the accession of the House of Stewart to the present time, into two periods: the first comprehending the history of those contests between prerogative and privilege, which the revolution terminated so honourably for the spirit of the nation, and so advantageously for the happiness and liberties of the people. The second containing the history of the rise and progress of the influence of the crown: an influence, which, though in some measure checked by the general diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of the arts, was likely in the opinion of the author, to become the more dangerous to the constitution, as its slow and insensible advances are less likely to excite attention.

Of these two parts of his design, the first was left by the author, in the style in which he apparently meant to give it to the public, and in which it now appears—Great parts of the materials for the history of the second period, as well as for an account of the present state of the English Government, had also been collected and partly arranged by him: but considerable alterations of its manuscript would be necessary, before those very important parts of the work could be offered to the public.

There were found, however, among Mr. Millar's papers, several dissertations on subjects connected with the latter history of the Government, Manners, and Literature of England, the substance of which it would appear he had intended to introduce into his work; these dissertations seem to contain so many ingenious and interesting speculations, that it has been judged proper to make them public, notwithstanding the unfinished state of the concluding Essay.

A work, professedly on the English Government, if we except that of De Lolme, which is extremely superficial, and too much in the style of eulogy, has

has not often come before the public. The knowledge of our constitution, which the common reader was ambitious to acquire, was generally picked up in Hume's Appendixes and the first volume of Blackstone's Commentary. The former of these writers, though no lawyer, communicated his knowledge in so pleasing a manner, and was so generally consulted, that almost every one could form some idea of the nature of the Government under which he lived; but his plan being limited to the revolution, no constitutional information could be expected beyond it.

Blackstone, notwithstanding the splendour and illumination which he grafted upon the knotted stock of the law, must be considered as writing to lawyers only, and was thus little sought out of the common beat of the profession. His first volume, allowing it all its merit, was too rapid and concise. Like Montesquieu, he gave no regular chain of reasoning, or concatenation of argument, but embodied principles and results in short apophthegms; a method of writing peculiarly appropriate to such as have learned before, but difficult and unintelligible to beginners. Henry, in his History of England, has not scattered much of constitutional information. A fondness for dry antiquity led him astray from his subject; and he seems possessed of a kind of mercantile literature, which he retailed in the same spirit, and consumed himself in tedious enquiries about trade and manufactures. We must acknowledge, however, many writers who have written with true genius on this subject, and very commendable antiquarian research; for, as it is a part of our national pride to trace the first dawn of our liberties up to the earlier period of our history, and to find among the Saxons the foundations of our present constitution, that writer will always be regarded with affection who succeeds in this attempt, and proves, what is not very difficult to prove, that England was free from the first organization of society in the island.

But it must nevertheless be confessed, that this rage of *time immemorial* liberty, has often led our writers to mix a great deal of folly with a good deal of truth. Some of these gentlemen, in the fury of their zeal, see the *King's Council* in the ancient *Wildenagemote*, and others, in search of opposite precedents, cite the example of Queen Boadicea to justify a *Standing Army*. Mr. Millar, however, has little of this rage of antiquity. When he cannot understand an ancient custom or institution, he is content to leave it uninterpreted, and though he is not wanting in what we might call an unnecessary ardour for liberty, he sees enough in the laws of nature and society whereon to ground our rights, without coining precedents among the first barbarous invaders of the kingdom.

This work is inscribed to Mr. Fox, in a style of such dexterous flattery, that it is impossible to think he can remain unmoved by it. The author tells his patron, that it is impossible to write a constitutional History of England, without having Mr. Fox in his thoughts. In delineating the progress of the English Government, he adds, 'I have endeavoured to avoid those fond 'prepossessions which Englishmen are apt to entertain upon the subjects, as 'well as the prejudices peculiar to the two great parties which the nature 'of our government has produced. How far I have succeeded in this, 'must be left to the judgment of the public. But, whatever indulgence 'may be shewn to this work, the ambition of its author will not be gratified, unless he can procure, in some degree, the approbation of a mind superior to prejudice; equally capable of speculation, and of active exertion; 'no less conversant in elegant literature, than accustomed to animate the 'great scenes of national business, possessed of the penetration to discover 'the genuine principles of the constitution, and of the virtue to make them 'an invariable rule of conduct.'

In his introduction, he observes, 'That the great series of the events in the History

'History of England may be divided into three parts;—the first, extending 'from the settlement of the Saxons in Britain to the Norman conquest; 'the second, from the reign of William the Conqueror to the accession of 'the House of Stewart; the third, from the reign of George the First, to 'the present time.—The important changes exhibited in the state of the 'country, and in the situation of its inhabitants appear, like a sort of natural 'boundaries, to mark out these different periods, and to recommend them 'as objects of distinct and separate examination."—

'The first period contains the conquest of England by the Northern Barba-'rians, the division of the country under the different chiefs by whom the 'people were conducted, the subsequent union of those principalities under 'one sovereign, and the course of public transactions under the Saxon and 'Danish monarchs.

'The reign of William the Conqueror, while it put an end to the ancient 'line of kings, introduced into England a multitude of foreigners, who obtain-'ed extensive landed possessions, and spread with great rapidity the manners 'and customs of a nation more civilized and improved than the English. The 'inhabitants were thus excited to a quicker advancement in the common arts 'of life; at the same time, the nation, by acquiring continual connections, 'was involved in more extensive military operations.

'By the union of the crown of England and Scotland, upon the accession of 'the House of Stewart, the animosities and dissensions, with all their trouble-'some consequences, which had so long subsisted between the two countries, 'were effectually suppressed. On the improvement of manufactures, and 'the introduction of a considerable foreign trade, England began, in a short 'time, to establish her maritime power, and assume a higher rank in the scale 'of Europe. The same periods are likewise distinguished by remarkable 'variations in the form of Government.

'Upon the settlement of the Saxons in Britain, we behold a number of rude 'tribes or families feebly united together, and little accustomed either to sub-'ordination among themselves, or to the authority of a monarch. During 'the reigns of the Anglo-Saxon Princes, we discover the effects produced by 'the gradual acquisition of property; in consequence of which some individu-'als were advanced to the possession of great estates, and others, who had 'been less fortunate, were obliged to shelter themselves under the protection 'of their more opulent neighbours. Political power, the usual attendant of pro-'perty, was thus gradually accumulated in the hands of a few great leaders, 'or nobles; and the Government became more and more aristocratical.

'When the advance of the country in improvement had opened a wider in-'tercourse and produced a more intimate union between the different parts of 'the kingdom, the accumulated property in the hands of the king became the 'source of greater influence than the divided property possessed by the nobles. 'The prerogatives of the former, in a course of time, were therefore gradually 'augmented, and the privileges of the latter suffered a proportionable diminu-'tion. From the reign of William the Conqueror in England, we may date 'the first exaltation of the crown, which, under the succession of the Planta-'ganets and Tudor families, continued to rise in splendor and authority. 'About the commencement of the reign of James the First, great alterations 'began to appear in the political state of the nation. Commerce and manu-'factures, by exciting a spirit of liberty among the great body of the peo-'ple, by changing the system of national defence, and by increasing the ne-'cessary expences of government, gave rise to those disputes which, after 'various turns of fortune, were at last happily terminated by the establishment 'of a popular form of government.

'In the following treatise it is proposed to take a separate view of the peri-'ods of the English history, and to examine the chief differences of the politi-

'cal

'cal system in each of them.—As the government which we enjoy at present 'has not been formed at once, but has grown to maturity in a course of age, 'it is necessary, in order to have a full view of the circumstances from which 'it proceeded, that we should survey with attention the successive changes 'through which it has passed. In a disquisition of this nature, it is hoped 'that, by considering events in the order in which they happened, the 'causes of every change, will be more and more easily unfolded, and may be 'pointed out with greater simplicity. As the subject, however, is of great ex-'tent, I shall endeavour to avoid prolixity, either from quoting authorities, or 'adducing proofs in matters sufficiently evident, or from intermixing any de-'tail of facts not intimately connected with the history of our constitution.

'With respect to the Saxon period, which comes first in order; many 'writers appear to have looked upon it as too remote, and as affording a 'prospect too barren and rude to deserve any particular examination. But 'it ought to be considered, that the foundations of our present constitution 'were laid in that early period; and that, without examining the principles 'on which it is founded, we cannot form a just opinion concerning the nature 'of the superstructure. To trace the origin of a system so singular in its na-'ture may at the same time, be regarded as an object of rational curiosity. 'The British government is the only one in the annals of mankind that has aim-'ed at a diffusion of liberty through a multitude of people, spread over a wide 'extent of territory. The ancient republics of Greece and Rome compre-'hended little more than the police of a single city; and in these a great pro-'portion of the people, so far from being admitted to a share in the govern-'ment, were, by the institution of domestic slavery, excluded from the com-'mon rights of men. The modern republics of Italy, not to mention the ve-'ry unequal privileges which they bestow upon different individuals, are in-'considerable in their extent. The same observation is applicable to the 'Swiss cantons. In the seven united provinces of the Netherlands, the go-'vernment can hardly be considered as more extensive: for, notwithstanding 'the confederacy by which they are connected, every particular province, 'and even every single town of any consequence, belonging to each, having 'the exclusive power of making or consenting to its own regulations, forms in 'reality an independent political system. By what fortunate circumstance of 'events has an extensive plan of civil freedom been established in this island? 'Was it by accident or by design, or from the influence of peculiar situation, 'that our Saxon forefathers, originally distinguished as the most ferocious of 'all those barbarians who invaded the Roman provinces, have been enabled 'to embrace more comprehensive notions of society, and to sow the seeds of 'those political institutions which have been productive of such prosperity 'and happinesss to a great and popular empire? To these questions it is 'hoped in the sequel a satisfactory answer will be given.

The author thus unfolds the extensive plan of his work, and, in the progress of his undertaking, never appears deficient either in the selection of his materials or in the possession of that genius which was necessary to animate a dry and heavy mass. He is perhaps a little too refined in his deductions, and overheated in the zeal of his purpose, sees what will escape the observation of a calm observer, and what perhaps does not exist; but these faults are so nearly allied to excellence that they are easily forgiven. He who is determined to pick up every thing in his way, will frequently gather what is of no value, but it is to this general and indiscriminate industry, that we owe the value of our collection, and a man is readily pardoned whose only fault is that he has done too much.

There is one excellence in the present work which is eminently worthy of commendation, as no less rare than alluring. Mr. Millar makes no pomp of marginal references, no ostentatious display of authorities, and never encumbers readers

readers with notes longer than the text. This fault of the excellent historian Robertson was of very frequent practice among the Scotch writers who were deluded by his example. To authenticate the birth of a prince he used to quote all the cotemporary historians, in order that the reader might be sure of a fact which it was generally impossible to doubt. The style of this author is full of vigour; he is no mannerist, or imitator of Johnson, a model to whom the writers of his country are particularly attached. In a word, we do not hesitate to pronounce this work a valuable accession to English literature, on a subject which concerns every gentleman and lover of his country. The book is extremely well printed, and of a moderate price.

Scottish Scenery; or Sketches in Verse, descriptive of Scenes chiefly in the Highlands of Scotland; accompanied with Notes and Illustrations, and ornamented with Engravings by W. Burne, F. S. A. from Views painted by G. Walker, F. A. S. E. By *James Cririe. D. D.* 4to. 400 pp. 3l. 3s. boards. Cadell and Davies. 1803.

THE following work is of a new species. It is a tour in verse.—Poetic travels have seldom come before our readers; for though our travellers, from their liberal dealing in fiction, may lay claim to one of the greatest qualities of the poet, they have mostly been content to give their narratives in humble prose. The sublime and varied scenery of the Highlands is sufficient to inflame the imagination of a poet whose talent is description; but we question whether from compositions of this kind, either amusement or instruction can in any great degree be conveyed to the reader.

Accuracy of description, indeed, must always strike, and those who make the tour of the Highlands, if they find the poet has been faithful to nature, will have reason to be pleased with him, but unhappily, this accuracy will seldom be put to the test, and even should the present author possess it, which we do not presume to doubt, it is at least a barren excellence. To elegance, from the style of versification he has chosen, he can maintain but little claim. Blank verse will seldom admit it: and tho' descriptive poetry be most adapted to this metre, it can never hope to please, unless supported by a spirit of sublimity, and those bold figures and striking images which are required to elevate it above prose, and compensate the want of rhyme, without which blank verse has been properly termed, '*Poetry only to the Eye.*'

The association of the arts has always been a pleasing speculation, but we have now daily opportunities of witnessing their union in modern publications. The poet and the painter do as much as they can for each other, and in the work before us, the latter, in the division of praise, will be perhaps the gainer. The work is ornamented with the most splendid embellishments, and whatever we may think of the poetry, of the prints we are at least bound to speak well.

Addison's Campaign was rather severely called a *Gazette in rhime*;—an ill-natured critic might be tempted to call the present work, '*Patterson's Roads versified.*'

We shall select an extract from the author's address to Loch Lomond.

'Of Scotia's numerous lakes fairest and
'first
'See, Lomond spreads a beauteous bright
'expanse,
'Tho' great, obscure, neglected, and un-
'known;
'The arduous task, which others have de-
'clin'd,
'Shall I, unequal to the bold attempt,
'Advent'rous try, struck with the view
'sublime!
'In music's melting melody unskill'd,
'T' unite the theme what numbers shall I
'choose?
'Nature, descriptive Thomson's guide, and
'truth,

'The soul of every song that's nobly great,
'Shall tune the lay devoted to thy name?
'O might it worthy prove and last like
'thee,
'Where known, admir'd, till Nature's fi-
'nal doom.
'Vain hope! to think that mortal work
'should vie
'With what Omnipotence itself has
'form'd;
'Much less, that this, of mortal works the
'least,
'Should 'scape the general fate, and float
'secure,
'From age to age, along the stream of
'time.
'Great Lake! fit theme for more exalted
'song,
'What single view thy limits can explore?
'Thy native beauties, wild and vast, a-
'wake,
'With glad surprise, our intellectual
'powers.
'They sooth the madding passions all to
'peace,
'And fix the eye upon the glassy plain,
'Which holds to heaven a mirror blue and
'bright,
'With humble awe, let mortals own the
'hand
'That powerful form'd, and fill'd the dread
'abyss!
'Nor Long, nor Fyne, grac'd with the
'princely pile,
'The palace fair, where Campbell reigns
'ador'd;
'Nor fam'd Loch Au, nor Tay, Bredal-
'bane's boast,
'Nor Ness, nor Leven's self, nor Rannoch
'wild,
'Nor Hourn, nor far-fam'd Broom, mixed
'with the tide,
'Where countless millions of the finny
'race,
'Annual resort to crowd the briny wave,
'And furnish work for many busy hands;
'Can e'er in grandeur be to thee com-
'pair'd--
'Kettrine alone the beauteous and sub-
'lime,
'As thy proud rival blends; yet hides her
'charms
'Behind those mountains wild; there
'great Venow
'And vast Ben Leddi's greater height
'ascend;
'On either side to guard her lone recess;
'Where, deep embow'rd, in many a wind-
'ing bay,
''Mid waving woods, and tow'ring cliffs
'abrupt,
'On silver sands, her crystal waves she
'rolls,
'And dares full near approach thy nor-
'thern shores.--

Such is the specimen of the author's poetry, which, though occasionally vigorous, has in general too much of the humility of prose to please poetic ears. We are fearful this gentleman has failed from his choice of a bad subject. He is a man of undoubted genius and capable of adorning any other department of poetry in which he shall set his foot.

Observations on the Drama, with a View to its more beneficial Effects on the Morals and Society. By Edward Green, corresponding Member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, 8vo. 60 pp. 2s. 6d. Cadell and Davies. 1803.

THESE observations were read at the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester. The intention of the author is to rescue the English drama, from its present state of insignificance, and restore it to its original consequence and character. If he can accomplish this end, and supply us with better stage writers, the public would thank him; for, undoubtedly, the British theatre was never disgraced by a more infamous set than the present.—But his great objection seems to be the immorality of our stage compositions.—If he were a frequenter of our theatres, we apprehend he would not think so: on the contrary, the stage seems of late to have struck a league with the pulpit, and an audience is generally preached to death with dull moral lessons, which are at least objectionable as out of their place. The licentious works of Congreve, Farquhar, and Vanburgh, are sufficiently cleared of all obscenities before representation; and the refinement of a modern audience exacts this tampering even with Shakespear himself. The stage cannot well be made a school of morals; if we can be amused without licentiousness, it is all we can expect. The present work is entitled to the highest praise, though we do not agree with all the writer proposes. *The*

The works of the Right Hon. Lady Mary Wortley Montague; including her Correspondence, Poems, and Essays; published, by permission, from her genuine Papers, in 5 vols, 12mo. Phillips. 1803.

SUCH has been the eager reception of this publication, that, in the common course of our business, we found it impossible to overtake it till the consumption had enc eased so much as to call for a second edition. The work is now presented to us in a style of elegance well adapted to its deserts. Literary relics of such estimation as those of Lady Mary Wortley are well entitled to this profusion of ornaments, and typographical prodigality can never be better laid out than in decorating books of such intrinsic and acknowledged merit.

The reputation of this lady is no longer at the mercy of criticism; and as an epistolary writer she may even claim the praise of originality. The letters of Orinda, by the celebrated Mrs. Phillips, were only popular for a day—Those of Lady Mary Wortley have now almost lived their century, and must maintain a reputation which shall grow and flourish with the encreasing taste and judgment of the age. She is, in truth, the Madam Sevigné of England, with more brilliancy and wit, and a learning more suited to the purposes of common life.

It has been observed that the literature of females generally renders them averse from domestic duties, and that philosophy is of little use in those hands whose conduct it seldom directs to any useful end. This celebrated lady is a strong instance of its contrary tendency. Her talents were not those of a Lady Jane Grey, but of a wit and shrewd observer of human life and manners. Her learning was not the pedantry of the schools, but that of common life. Her fancy, which was the most unbounded and brilliant, was accompanied by a judgment of unusual rectitude and strength. Her sententious remarks on life and manners have all the brilliancy of epigrammatic point, and the strength of moral wisdom. The peculiar airiness of her writings, the tempered levity, the delicate raillery, and the indescribable elegance of her mind, have seldom been equalled. Blair speaks highly of her talents in his *Lectures;* but she has obtained the praise of a better judge.—Smollet, in the Critical Review, has paid her a compliment, which the opinion of the public has long since proved not to have been adulatory. The present publication contains many original pieces, and is the only authorized edition of her works. Of every thing here published, the original manuscript is now extant in the possession of the Marquis of Bute. We shall present our readers with a short abstract of the memoirs of Lady Mary which are written with great elegance, and are prefixed to this edition of her works.

Lady Mary Pierrepont was the eldest daughter of the Earl of Kingston: she was born in 1690. Her promising genius induced her father to give her one of the best classical educations. Her studies were superintended by Bishop Burnet, who is said to have bestowed his emendations on her translation of the Enchiridion of Epictetus. In 1712, she was privately married to Edward Wortley Montague, Esq. after a correspondence of two years. On her first appearance in public life, she was admitted to the familiarity of Addison and Pope: her intimacy with the latter is recorded to her own praise and to his disgrace. The whole of their correspondence, notwithstanding the habitual flattery of Pope in his letters to every lady, sufficiently shews his admiration of her genius.

In 1716, she accompanied her husband on his embassy to the Porte. This is the most important event of her literary history. The description of her journey, which is the chief subject of her letters, is that on which her reputation is principally founded, and when we speak of the talents of Lady Montague, we take our estimate from these letters. The editor bears testimony to the accuracy of her local description, and tells us, that

when he followed nearly the same route, about eighty years afterwards, he had the satisfaction of perusing her animated letters, on the very scenes in which they were penned, and had the pleasure of bringing them to the test of reality. The letters which she had written on her travels were published in a clandestine manner, of which the editor gives an account.—Upon her return to England, for the last time, in 1761, she gave them to a Mr. Sowden, and wrote the subjoined memorandum on the back of one of the books:—'These two volumes are given to the Rev. Benjamin Sowden, minister of Rotterdam, to be disposed of as he thinks proper. This is the will and design of M. Wortley Montague.'

After her death, the late Earl of Bute commissioned a gentleman to procure them, and to offer Mr. Sowden a considerable remuneration, which he accepted. Much to the surprise of that nobleman and Lady Bute, the manuscripts were scarcely brought to England when three volumes of Lady Mary Wortley Montague's letters were published by Beckett, and it has since appeared that Mr. Cleveland was the editor.

The same gentleman who had negotiated before, was again dispatched to Holland, and could gain no farther intelligence from Mr. Sowden, than that a short time before he parted with the MSS. two English gentlemen called on him to see the letters, and obtained their request. They had previously contrived that Mr. Sowden should be called away during their perusal, and he found on his return that they had disappeared with the books. Their residence was unknown to him; but on the next day they brought back the deposit, with many apologies. It appears that the intervening night was consumed in copying these letters by many amaunenses.

Among the talents of this lady was an extraordinary facility in learning languages. French, Italian, Greek, and Latin, were familiar to her: she knew sufficient German to understand a comedy at Vienna, and even attempted the Turkish language. She was the first who introduced into England the practice of inoculation, having tried its efficacy on her own son.—Few of our male travellers can lay claim to the introduction of so solid a benefit into their native country. She continued in Turkey about two years, and a short time after her return was solicited by Pope to fix her dwelling at Twickenham. For a long time their friendship and intimacy were inviolate, but the petulance and envy of Pope were constantly insulting those for whom, in his calmer moments, he wanted neither affection nor esteem.

Lady Mary was an adventurer in the South Sea scheme, and is supposed to have suffered on the explosion of the bubble. Mr. Pope, during their intimacy, made her sit to Kneller for her portrait, and wrote some verses underneath, which, but that they are given to Pope, may pass for those of the worst rhimester of the day: they are given in this edition in a fac simile of his hand-writing. Their acquaintance continued long after their friendship had ceased; they used to meet at Lady Oxford's, but rarely without opening batteries of repartees, and that with so many personalities, that Pope's petulance sought to discharge itself by abrupt departure from the company. Lady Mary had long since omitted to consult him on any poetical production, and when he had formerly been very free in proposing emendations, would say, "Come, no touching Pope; for what is good the world will give to you, and leave the bad for me!" and she was well aware that he disingenuously encouraged that idea.

At length, by a variety of irritations, part of which were avowed and openly resented, and part concealed, a final rupture was produced, to which the meanness of Pope's jealousy must be considered as the provocation.—This is the great incident of Lady Mary's life. The frequent invectives which he introduced into his satires, sometimes under the name of "Sappho," and often under that of "Lady Mary," are severally pointed out by

the editor, and, notwithstanding the denial of Pope, his application of them to his former favourite is traced beyond a doubt. This attack was wanton and malicious, and resented in a publication in which Lady Mary and Lord Hervey were concerned, called "Verses addressed to the Translator of the First Satire of the Second Book of Horace." Upon the circulation of this letter Pope endeavoured to exculpate himself, but meanly shifts his ground, and tries to palliate his conduct by falsehood. Johnson has alluded to this quarrel, and condemned the conduct of Pope towards a lady whom he himself is known to have disliked. "Pope," says he, "was sometimes wanton in his attack, and before Chandos, Lady Mary Wortley, and Hill, was mean in his retreat."

The editor next adduces the letters of several of the most illustrious characters of that age, who paid homage to her wit and beauty: among these were Addison; Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, Dr. Young, and Fielding. She appears to have been a benefactor to poor Savage; and, indeed, charity was one of the most prominent traits of her character.

Among courts and wits she was a long time eminently distinguished, but, in the year 1739, her health declined, and she resolved to pass the remainder of her days on the continent. Having obtained Mr. Wortley's consent, she left England, and hastened to Venice, and determined to establish herself in the North of Italy. Having been gratified by a short tour to Rome and Naples, she returned to Brescia, one of the palaces of which city she inhabited. Her summer residence she fixed at Louvara, on the shores of the lake of Isco, in the Venetian territory, whither she had been first invited on account of the mineral waters, which she found greatly beneficial to her health. There she took possession of a deserted palace, she planned her garden, applied herself to the business of a country life, and was happy in the superintendence of her vineyards and silk-worms. Books, and those chiefly English, sent her by Lady Bute, supplied the deficiency of society. Her letters from this retreat breathe a truly philosophic spirit, and evince that her care of her daughter and her family was ever nearest to her heart. No one appears to have enjoyed her repose more sincerely from the occupations of the gay world. Her visits to Genoa and Padua were not unfrequent; but about the year 1758, she quitted her solitude, and settled entirely at Venice*, where she remained 'till the death of Mr. Wortley, in 1761. She then yielded to the solicitations of her daughter, the late countess of Bute, and, after an absence of two and twenty years, she began her journey to England, where she arrived in October: but her health had suffered much, and a gradual decline terminated in death, on the 21st of August, 1762, and in the 73d year of her age. In the cathedral at Litchfield, a cœnotaph is erected to her memory.

A View of South Carolina, as respects her natural and civil Concerns. By John Drayton, Esq. Pages 300. Printed at Charlestown, in America. 8vo.

THE account which is here given of one of the most fertile and populous provinces of America must be extremely interesting to all who have a local connection with it, and is entertaining and instructive to those who are desirous to be informed of the state of distant colonies. The present author has opened a rich mine of observation, and has approved himself no less discerning as a topographer and a politician, than as a physiognomist of life and manners. In his views, he is general without confusion, and particular without minuteness; and if he could find time to display the state of the other provinces of his country, he would augment the obligation he has already conferred. Upon the whole, the natural and civil history of South

* The English travellers at Venice, who she presumed might have been induced to visit her from curiosity, she received in a mask and domino, as her dress of ceremony.

Carolina

Carloina is made as entertaining as a novel, at the same time that nothing is left unexplored which belongs to the subject of Mr. Drayton's enquiries.—He gives the following account of American jurisprudence, in several useful regulations:—Primogeniture rights have been abolished, and real and personal estates descend now by more equitable distributions. Liberty being the first principle of our government, it is never withholden from any insolvent debtor, when he faithfully delivers up all his effects to his creditors.—For this purpose, on his petitioning the court, his case is considered, and if he has acted honestly, he is released from his imprisonment, and is discharged for ever against the claims of his creditors; or those who receive a dividend of his estate, and others, who do not sue him, are prohibited, by law, from doing so, until twelve months after his discharge. Hence an opportunity is given him of retrieving his affairs, and instances could be adduced of persons who, in such cases, have been enabled to discharge all their debts, and still preserve something handsome for their families.

It is to be lamented that we who are so much further advanced in refinement cannot profit by the example of other free countries, and exscind from our statute book those savage laws of debtor and creditor, which are perhaps the only blot in the fairest code which the constitution of any kingdom can boast.

Had this book been divided into short sections and chapters it would have been better. If it be reprinted, the author will probably avail himself of this advice.

A Narrative of the Situation and Treatment of the English arrested by order of the French government at the commencement of Hostilities; with the transactions on the arrival of the First Consul at Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk, and afterwards down to the end of July: containing some secret Anecdotes of Bonaparte's confidential Commandant at Calais, and an account of the Author's escape from thence in a TRUNK.—By William Wright, late English interpreter to General Brabançon, commandant at Calais. 8vo. 40 pp. 1s. Badcock, 1803.

THE title of this book has curtailed of some few lines the criticism we otherwise meant to have given upon it. It is extremely curious, and apparently written with a strict regard to truth. The times concur with its sale, and if it succeed at all, it must now.

A View of London; or, the Stranger's Guide through the British Metropolis; containing an account of its curiosities, amusements, commerce, public buildings, and every other object worthy the attention of the curious visitor, as well as the resident in this vast capital. 200 pp. 1s. Crosby and Co. 1803.

THESE little books have such long long titles, that, in the language of reviewing, we cannot spare so much room to describe their contents. But the present work well deserves a nich. It is extremely well compiled, and the price is so moderate that it deserves, what it will assuredly enjoy, an extensive sale.

The German Sorceress; a romance, by Mr. Littleton, in 3 vols. 12mo. 10s. 6d. Lane and Newman.

THIS is one of those Romances which deserves to live beyond the usual period enjoyed by works of this kind. The story is sufficiently complicate without confusion; it astonishes without transgressing nature, or violating the probabilities of life. The incidents are rapid, and the characters drawn with a skilful hand. Upon the whole, the purity of the sentiments, and the general interest of an affecting story, must procure it readers among a very numerous class.

Very

Very Strange but Very True! or The History of an Old Man's Young Wife. A Novel, by Francis Lathom. 4 vols. 12mo. Longman and Rees. 14s.

MR. Lathom is no favourite of ours; he writes a novel as he writes a play, without consulting truth, nature, or the modes of the times. The work before us, has bustle without incident, story without interest, and character without discrimination. It is an absurd medley. It is a pilfering composition, in which the author has not the ingenuity to conceal his theft. Mr. Lathom is least sufferable when he attempts wit and humour: he can sometimes relate an incident tolerably well, but he is peculiarly unhappy when he tries to cut a joke.

Rhapsodies by W. H. Ireland. 8vo. 200 pages. Longman and Rees. 1803.

This gentleman has a little injured his moral character by a memorable forgery, which we are sorry to see him avow with a kind of claim to credit for the success of his imposture. He is however a young man of undoubted genius, in the line of Mr. Lewis: he has a portion of his wildness, but more originality and strength. Some of these Rhapsodies, which are poems, in various metres, are extremely beautiful.

The Songster's favourite Companion; a collection of new and much-esteemed Songs, adapted for the Violin. 12mo. 300 pages. Vernor and Hood.

THE title of this book sufficiently explains itself; it is what it professes to be, and that, in a modern publication is no inconsiderable merit. The collection is very good, and the music is given to each song.

Leopold; or the Bastard. 2 vols. 12mo. 7s. Highley. 1803.

THIS novel has certainly some originality, and the story, though very scanty, is told with interest. It is a much better than the common supply of the circulating libraries. Upon the whole, we shall pronounce Leopold, not a *Bastard*. He seems to have come from the right line, and has the lineaments of good sense in every feature of his face.

The Atrocities of Bonaparte, or the Corsican Demon, 8vo. 70 pages, price 1s. 6d. Lane and Newman.

THIS is an admirable, inspiriting composition. The First Consul is drawn, on the credit of history, in colours which must appal every honest mind and feeling heart. This little work presents a life of Bonaparte, and a commentary on all his atrocities. It is written with candour and coolness, and the address at the end is the most animating and patriotic of any we have yet seen. The author has at least done *his* part to fan the general flame of indignation which we soon hope to see bursting forth to the destruction of him who has threatened our island with Invasion and Britons with Slavery.

The Anti-Gallican, No. 1, to be continued weekly, 8vo. 35 pages, price 8d. Vernor and Hood.

EVERY one who offers his mite, however small, has a claim, in this cause, to national gratitude. We hope to see this work continued.

The

The Chances; or, Nothing of the New School: a Novel. By a Disciple of the Old School. 12mo. 2 vol. 7s. Cuthell and Martin.

THIS Novel is strictly orthodox, and is thus entitled to credit: it is, moreover, entertaining, and will be generally read; but it wants originality of character and incident to make it popular beyond a summer. But when so much is tolerated at the Circulating Libraries, the *Chances* may come in for its share of encouragement, and not fall into the tide of oblivion, before it has sported with its brethren on the surface of observation.

Sappho; after a Greek Romance. 12mo. 3s. 6d. Cuthell and Martin.

THIS is all *Greek* to us.

Bonaparte; or, the Free Booter: a Drama, in three Acts. By John Scott Ripon, Esq. 8vo. 6d. Highley. 1803.

THE intention of this Drama is so good, that we shall not quarrel with the execution; but we would advise this author to meddle with no other character than that of Bonaparte, whom the public will suffer to *maul* as he pleases.

Flowers of Literature for 1801 *and* 1802; *or Characteristic Sketches of Human Nature and Modern Manners. To which is added, a general View of Literature during that Period; with Notes, Historical, Critical, and Explanatory. By the Rev. F. Prevost, and F. Blagdon, Esq.* Volume First to be continued annually. 12mo. Crosby. 1803.

WE had reason to commend the last publication of these gentlemen, particularly the life of Dr. Moore; and are pleased to see them persist in their plan of *Anas*, as we know none more qualified to collect them with taste and judgment. In this volume are some beautiful extracts from the most eminent modern authors; and if the work be continued annually, it will afford a good opportunity of embodying the spirit of literature, whilst the grosser particles are suffered to evaporate.

FRENCH BOOKS.

Lithologie Atmospherique; Atmospheric Lithology; shewing the Progress and present State of Science, relative to the Phenomena of Thunder-bolts, &c. By Joseph Izarn, Professor of Natural Philosophy, &c. 8vo. 421 pp.

UPON seeing a work announced on this subject, the question naturally arises: Is it only in our times that stones have fallen from the regions of the air, and if they have fallen in every age, how happens it that this phenomenon has not been described, studied, and thoroughly investigated before? This question M. Izarn has answered by first considering mankind with respect to their disposition to admit or reject any extraordinary fact which appears unaccountable to them. He ranges them in three classes, whose characters he describes as follow:—'1. The ignorant multitude who chuse 'rather to give credit to the greatest absurdities than to be at the trouble to 'investigate them. 2. Those which imagine they know every thing, and 'consider every thing impossible that does not accord with their knowledge. '3. Lastly; a small number of men of observation, and philosophers who 'have frequently found that the limits of human knowledge are not those of 'nature, and who having more than once found their own judgments, or 'those of their masters erroneous, have grown more prudent and more cautious in forming their opinions.'

He

He likewise arranges all the phenomena of nature in three classes, considered relative to the interest they inspire, the curiosity they excite, and the efforts made by mankind to ascertain their causes.

A circumstance happening only at intervals of two or three centuries, and having but few witnesses, would perhaps never form a part of human knowledge, because the impression it might at first have produced being effaced when it appeared again, each time would seem to be the first of its appearance, and if it differed ever so little from well known facts, the witnesses most worthy of credit would only lose their time to relate them.

Such was the case with the phenomenon of meteoric stones. The author, in the first part of his work, which is as complete as could be wished, states the facts and opinions hitherto published on the subject. After having laid under contribution the earliest academic collections, he has recourse to the port-folios of the learned, from which he has extracted facts of considerable interest. This collection is a great advantage to those who may turn their attention to this curious problem of natural philosophy.

In the second section M. Izarn examines the pieces which he has introduced into the first. He discusses the opinions that have been given both on the reality of the fact and the manner of explaining it. He shews that all these explanations accorded with the state of science at the time of their respective authors, and that this state prevented them from giving better. He marks the errors of each in particular, and convinces us that this phenomenon has never been considered in one general view, but only as the descent of a story substance, which constitutes only a part of it.

With regard to the opinions against the existence of the fact, we shall quote his own words in his examination of one of those pieces, No. 14, extracted from the *Bibliotheque Britannique:*—'This letter,' says he, 'presents 'us in a fact noticed only by M. de Saint Amand, the general history of the 'naturalists who had had occasion to turn their attention to this phenomenon. 'Since the time of Lemery, the opinion of scientific men had been made 'up concerning the fall of stones. By several successive decisions they had 'been led to regard it as a popular error, as a thing physically impossible. 'With such prepossessions, we laugh at what we hear, and we do not even 'take the trouble to examine how far it may be founded. Such was the 'case with M. de Saint Amand in 1790, (after having amused myself with 'him,' (Bertholon) says he, 'concerning what we considered a popular tale, 'I thought it would be an excellent joke to procure the attestation of such 'an absurdity by an authentic act, and I instantly demanded a proces-verbal 'to bear testimony to the fall of these stones, &c.) but since scientific men, 'of the first talents, agree in presenting striking proofs of the existence and 'reality of these facts pronounced to be physically impossible, every one 'opens his eyes and bestows all his attention. The impossibility begins to 'be called in question; it gradually disappears, and gives place to probabi-'lity, which is soon succeeded by conviction, in consequence of the multi-'tude of corroborative facts contributed by each. This change took place 'in the mind of M. de Saint Amand in 1802, when he compared the stones 'in his possession with the descriptions given by M. Pictet of all those which 'he had seen in London. Thus it happens, and always will happen, to 'those who devote themselves to sciences depending on facts and observa-'tions, because it is not an individual that can trace their progress, and his 'manner of viewing a fact can neither establish nor destroy it. If the proofs 'which he brings forward are sufficiently striking to attract general atten-'tion, and to produce conviction, he has rendered an essential service to 'science, and has advanced it another step; in the contrary case, he is 'abandoned to his conviction, and the public opinion remains what it was. 'This has happened with regard to the phenomenon which we are consi-'dering.

'dering, only the concurrence of circumstances which have just taken 'place was necessary to convince us of its reality.'

The principal view of the author was to reply to the appeal of M. de Laplace, by establishing the reality of the phenomenon, to which few natural philosophers could as yet give credit. On this head every uncertainty is removed by the two first sections of M. Izarn's work. He does not, however, stop there, but having studied the phenomenon by means of the numerous researches and details into which he entered, he acquired new ideas concerning the formation of these solid masses. These ideas he developes in the third section; they differ from all that has hitherto been said on this subject, but they accord with the established principles of sound philosophy. M. Izarn begins with an exposition of those principles in a manner which proves that he is accustomed to profound investigation. He states many observations which are peculiar to him on detonations, on the disengagement of caloric, of light, &c. and the principles which he establishes on these questions, conformably to the present state of science, lead to the following results:—

1. That in the gaseous mass which envelopes our globe, there are various aëriform substances with which we are unacquainted, that most of these substances are separated the one by the other, and spherically consolidated by the pressure that acts upon them on all sides.

2. That detonations take place in the atmosphere which are not the result of electric phenomena nor at all analogous to electricity.

3. That luminous meteors should not be attributed to the combustion of hydrogen, since those phenomena are attended only with a disengagement of light, which may be effected by an alteration in the state of any gaseous substance.

4. Finally; That the disengagement of light does not necessarily produce that of caloric, and that the brighter it is, the less we are authorized to suppose that there is any cause of fusion, vitrification, &c.

In these results M. Izarn finds the explanation of the phenomenon. 'I 'say of the phenomenon, (he adds) and not of the formation or fall of stones, 'which only constitute a part of it. It is from not having paid attention 'only to this part, that writers have given such explanations as cannot be 'admitted when we examine all its characters in the following manner: a 'luminous globe, moving with greater or less rapidity in a direction some-'what inclined towards the horizon; disappearance of light by one or more 'violent detonations; fall of one or more solid bodies of various forms, but 'always rounded, and without sharp edges; presenting a smooth and very 'compact surface, and what is most remarkable, affording by analysis, ex-'actly the same products.'

After proving that the explanations given by the learned authors of various hypotheses do not agree with the foregoing description of the phenomenon, he says,—'The origin of these masses can neither be found on the 'surface, nor in the interior of the globe, nor in the higher regions beyond 'the influence of the atmosphere; they, therefore, can have been formed 'only in that laboratory, and there only they must be sought; this appears 'to me a point that cannot be disputed. In this case one of the two follow-'ing positions must be admitted: either these masses are only a concretion 'of very fine particles of sulphur, iron, nickel, silica, and volatilised mag-'nesia, dissolved in the atmosphere, and abandoned by their solvent to the 'influence of their reciprocal affinity; or only the elements of those sub-'stances existed there, the combination of which was produced by some 'particular circumstance. There is no alternative, either one or the other, 'of these explanations must be adopted.

'I first

'I first considered the former, but the more I studied the phenomenon, 'from the accounts which I collected, the more convinced I was of its fal-'lacy.' The author then states the reasons which induced him to differ from the opinion of Soldanis, professor of natural philosophy at Sienna, and to adopt the second, which causes him to think that there exist in the atmosphere gaseous masses, which descend into the bowels of the earth to fructify the veins of metal or stone, of which it only contains the germ.

'Can we doubt,' says he, 'that this was the natural and original destina-'tion of those substances which have been discovered by analysis in all me-'teoric masses? Each of these bodies is then, properly speaking, only a 'mineral abortion, a premature combination of gaseous principles, united in 'hurry and confusion by perturbed circumstances, while they ought to have 'proceeded separately and quietly towards analogous substances on the sur-'face or in the bosom of the earth. This fact then is but an anomaly in the 'grand system of mineralisation.'

'M. Sage,' adds the author, in a note, 'to whom I thus spoke concern-'ing the specimen which he shewed me, was struck with the idea. In-'deed, (said he) I have found, in the analysis of plants, metals with which 'they could have been impregnated only by the atmosphere.'

To form an opinion on this theory, which will doubtless draw the attention of natural philosophers, the reader must refer to the work itself to see how the author has been led from general principles to the consequences explanatory of the phenomenon. 'It is principally to this point,' says he, 'that the judgment of scientific men, to whom I submit it, should be di-'rected, and I trust they will find reasons more than sufficient to induce 'them to say after me:—

'De hoc multi multa, omnes aliquid, nemo satis.'

The above is the inscription on the stone which fell at Ensisheim, in the year 1492, and which the author has chosen for the motto of the present work.

This volume concludes with two tables. The first contains four columns, with the heads:—1. Substances which are said to have fallen on our globe:—2. Places where they are said to have been seen to fall:—3. Dates when they fell:—4. Witnesses or reporters of those phenomena.

The second table exhibits:—1. The names of the philosophers who have considered those substances as products thrown upon the earth by volcanoes:—2. Mineral substances melted by lightning on the spot where they were found:—3. Concretions formed in the atmosphere:—4. The masses foreign to our planet.

Histoire de la Ville d'Autun. History of the City of Autun, formerly known by the Name of Bibracte; divided into four Books, and embellished with Engravings. By Joseph Rosny, a Captain in the Army. 4to.

AS the general history of a people must necessarily be composed of the combination of a great number of detached facts, the particular history of each principal town must contribute to illustrate that of the country in general. This is an object the more desirable in France, as most of them acted a distinguished part among the 64 cities of Gaul, so celebrated in antiquity, and which so long withstood the power of the Romans, the conquerors of the world. The history of the city of Autun, then known by the name of Bibracte, must inspire a higher interest, because it is connected not only with Roman history, but likewise with that of Celtic Gaul and Burgundy.

It was not yet decided that Autun (Augustodunum) was the same city as the Bibracte, of which Cæsar speaks in his Commentaries in terms of such

high commendation. Opinions on this subject were greatly divided; yet M. Rosny seems, in his preface, to have proved the identity of that city with the antient Bibracte. In support of his opinion he adduces facts which produce conviction in the most incredulous minds. In opposition to the small number of writers who suppose that the superb Bibracte formerly stood on the mountain of Beuvrai, (*Mons Bifractus*) four leagues distant from Autun, he contends that it would have been impossible to erect, on so small a space, a city of such immense magnitude; and that the innumerable objects of art which are discovered every year, by means of the plough, in the bosom of the earth, in the immediate vicinity of Autun, are sufficient demonstrations of the site of the ancient city. He corroborates his opinion by mentioning the temples, porticoes, and antique monuments, the ruins of which are still to be seen at Autun. Nothing of this description is to be found in the different places where historians of less accurate observation have imagined that the Bibracte of Cæsar was situated.

The author divides his work into four books, each of which is subdivided into chapters. The first book comprises details on the origin of the Eduenses, and the foundation of the ancient Bibracte, which, according to some historians, was in its meridian splendor at the time when its sister city and rival, Rome, was scarcely founded. He developes the motives of the alliance between the inhabitants of the city and the Romans; he treats of their character, manners, customs, religion, the different deities they adored; lastly, of their form of government, and the pre-eminence which their city long preserved in the general administration of Gaul. He subjoins some curious details relative to the Druids, their colleges, functions, the veneration with which they were treated, their sacrifices, maxims, ceremonies, authority, prerogatives, the sciences they professed, their habits, and the suppression of their order.

The second book contains the annals of the republic of the Eduenses. It presents a history of the various wars and revolutions in which that republic was involved, and then gives an accurate account of the different interesting events of which Autun has been the theatre; among others, of the twenty-two sieges which that unfortunate city sustained, and the horrid ravages the plague has several times made there. This book concludes with a description of antient usages practised at Autun, the festival of fools, and that of the innocents, celebrated in former times in many of the towns of France, especially at Auxerre, Rouen, and Dreux.

The third part gives a detailed notice on the courts of Autun, its bishops, from St. Amator to the present time, and the great men whom that city has produced.

The fourth and last is entirely devoted to a description of the different monuments of antiquity, the ruins of which may still be seen at Autun; such as the antient walls mentioned by Ammianus Marcellinus, and which, in his time, were already falling to decay; the subterraneous passages that led to and from this city; the baths, the aqueducts, and public fountains; the naumachia, the poliandra, the mœmian schools, the theatre, amphitheatre, capitol, and the antient palace; the temples of Hercules, Jupiter, Pallas, Juno, Anubis, Cupid, Venus, Priapus, Minerva, Berecynthia, Theutates, Proserpine, Pluto, and Janus.

We likewise find in this book, the history of several modern or Gothic monuments; as the cathedral, the abbies of St. Martin, St. Androche, St. Jean le Grand, St. Symphorien, St. Roch, the Cordeliers, the college, and the antient seminary. The author has likewise added a notice on all the antiquities found during several ages, both at Autun and throughout the whole of its territory, as marbles, columns, tombs, coffins, urns, statues, busts, inscriptions, engraved stones, jewels, and medals. This last chapter may likewise

wise serve to gratify the curiosity of the reader respecting the statistics of the vicinity of Autun, its commerce, the character of its modern inhabitants, and the resources which the city is capable of deriving from its favorable situation.

Such a collection of historic facts cannot but excite interest among the learned. This mine, which had been wrought very superficially before, contained abundance of valuable materials. M. Rosny has spared no effort to raise a durable monument in honor of the city of Autun, for which he seems even to entertain an affection. The inhabitants of the place are not only indebted to him for his exertions to rescue it from obscurity, but all the amateurs of the arts and antiquities must feel an obligation to him for having endeavoured to bring to light a great number of valuable monuments, the memory of whose past existence was ready to be buried for ever in profound oblivion.

Lettres ecrites sous le Regne d'Auguste, &c. Letters written during the Reign of Augustus, preceded by an Historic Sketch of the Romans and Gauls, from their origin to the Battle of Actium. 8vo. 500 pp. with a Map of Italy. 6 fr.

IN the execution of this work the author appears to have taken for his model the *Letters to Emilia*. The epistolary form, the principal correspondence with a female, the mixture of verse and prose, produce a great conformity in the plan of the two productions. Perhaps the severity of history, and of Roman history in particular, is not so well suited to this kind of writing as the smiling images of Grecian mythology. To temper this severity, the young Gaul, whom the author brings upon the scene, descants at great length upon the fine arts, in the knowledge of which he supposes his principal correspondent to be very well versed. Born at Marseilles, the historian and traveller, after the battle of Actium, quits that city and repairs to Rome. His observations are directed to the manners and customs of the Romans; he is present at their assemblies, their games, their festivals, of which he gives highly interesting descriptions. His connections with the great men of that time, with the philosophers, priests, and artists, afford him an opportunity of introducing into his correspondence curious details on the politics, the philosophical and religious opinions, the arts, and of describing with taste, sometimes even with enthusiasm, the public monuments of Rome and Italy. In the correspondence with his friend, and the narrative of several little excursions, the author allows himself a lighter style in his prose, and frequently intersperses it with pleasing pieces of poetry.

Histoire de la Guerre Civile en France, &c. History of the Civil War in France, and the Miseries occasioned by it, from the Period of the Formation of the States General, in 1789, to 18 Brumaire, Year 8, (1799) 3 vols. 8vo. 15 fr.

THIS work contains authentic details relative to the plunder and conflagration of the castles of the nobility and gentry, the troubles in Corsica and the Comtat, the massacres of Nancy, Avignon, the Colonies, and particularly the events that have taken place in St. Domingo; the sanguinary days of September, 1792; the sieges of Carpentras, Lyons, Toulon; the cause which produced the war of La Vendée, and the outrages committed against humanity. It likewise contains anecdotes of the principal persons who figured in the revolution, and of its most illustrious victims; together with many particulars never before published.

In this work the author has collected a multitude of facts, as curious as they are important, which were only to be found diffused through a great number of publications; and this is no small merit. It is, however, to be wished, that he had been more attentive to method in the disposition and arrangement of facts, and that he had been more correct in his style. We observe, for example, that he has introduced in the ninth book of the first volume, details concerning the States General, which ought certainly to have preceded those contained in the foregoing eight.

Essais sur les îles Fortunées et l'antique Atlantide. Essays on the Fortunate Islands and the ancient Atlantis; or, Sketch of the General History of the Archipelago of the Canaries. By J. B. G. M. Bory de Saint Vincent, 4to. with Plans, Views, and Plates. 15 fr. fine pap. 30 fr.

THE letters of the learned and unfortunate Bailly, on the Atlantis of Plato, and the antient history of Asia, contain learned researches and ingenious conjectures; but he appears to have erred in his conjectures, when he placed the country of the ancient Atlantis far from the Fortunate Islands, which, according to the author of these essays, are evidently the fragments of a vast continent, which was inhabited by the Atlantis, and the greatest part of which was swallowed up by the sea.

To arrive at this conclusion, the author, who resided a considerable time in these islands, and whose work proclaims him an attentive observer, and a man of considerable erudition, begins with a notice on the principal writers who have treated of the Canary, or Fortunate Islands; he then proceeds to a description of those islands, where he discovers, at every step, volcanic productions, substances altered by fire, irrefragable testimonies of an ancient and complete revolution.

This description is succeeded by that of the climate. Placed under the same parallel with the Delta of Egypt, Persia, Hindostan, and the finest provinces of the Chinese empire, the Canary Islands possess this advantage over those countries that their climate, which is naturally very hot, from the latitude in which they lie, is almost always cooled by the north and west winds. The author does not dissemble that this advantage is sometimes counterbalanced by the baleful south and south-west winds, which produce excessive heat, moderated by no refreshing breeze, and succeeded by furious hurricanes, torrents of rain, which cause inundations, contagious diseases, and clouds of destructive locusts.

The author represents the soil of these islands as very mountainous; in the fertile and cultivated parts they are even obliged to construct walls of loose stones to prevent the earth from rolling down. Such a soil is much better suited to the vine than any other production; thus we find that it is the principal object of culture, and the wine of these islands is justly celebrated.

The details into which the author enters, on the natives of the Canary islands, whom the Spaniards found there at the period of their conquest, are extremely prolix. These aborigines were called Guanches; like the antient Egyptians, they possessed the art of perfectly embalming dead bodies, and at different times, mummies in high preservation have been discovered in the catacombs, which are very frequent in the Canaries. Farther discoveries have afforded satisfactory notions on their habitations, furniture, implements of agriculture, and arms. The Spanish historians have preserved many monuments of the progress they had made in the arts. Every thing concurs in establishing the fact, that the Guanches had arrived at a certain degree of civilization.

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The picture of the manners and customs of the Guanches is succeeded by an historic sketch of the conquest of the Canaries by various adventurers, for the Court of Madrid, and the afflicting details of the total destruction of the Guanches.

The author next considers the Canary islands in their present state. As far as regards their commerce, wine and spirits are the principal articles of exportation. Every thing that constitutes a part of dress is imported.

The reader, with much pleasure, follows the author through the account of the natural history, and particularly the botany of the Canaries. The island of Teneriffe, on account of its celebrated peak, must necessarily make a distinguished figure in this part of the work.

After these notices, so valuable to naturalists, the author enters into disquisitions no less interesting to the learned. He first enquires whether the Canaries should not be considered as the Fortunate islands, the Elysian fields, the Hesperides, the real Mount Atlas of antiquity, and decides in the affirmative. His conclusion is the same on the question, whether the Canaries, and the other islands of the Atlantic ocean are not the fragments of some continent.

The work concludes with a learned enquiry into the origin of the Guanches, and their connection with the most antient people that are known to have existed.

Intrigues Secrettes et Politiques du Cardinal de Richelieu. Secret and Political Intrigues of the Cardinal de Richelieu, printed from a Manuscript of the 17th Century. By D. M. 12mo. 1 fr. 50 c.

WHY is there not a tribunal before which injured Truth might demand redress; a special court established to avenge the outrages with which she is incessantly overwhelmed by certain modern writers? Public opinion, it is true, supplies its place, and the judicious critic never fails to unmask their falsehoods.

In the work before us we are informed that Gaston, the brother of Louis XIII. is deeply enamoured with Cardinal Richelieu's niece, an accomplished female, and so tenderly beloved by Anne of Austria, that the illustrious spouse of Louis XIII. had taken the name of Statira, that she might give the appellation of Parisatis to the prelate's amiable kinswoman. The pious Anne of Austria, like a kind sister, offers her services to Monsieur, and endeavours to persuade the fair Parisatis, Richelieu, proud of the beauty and merit of his niece, aspired to nothing less than to marry her to his master's brother; and as he was no hypocrite, if we are to believe all the histories of those times, he, at a splendid entertainment, proposed the union to the prince, in the presence of the whole court. Let us now hear the author himself.

'Scarcely had the cardinal ceased speaking, when Monsieur made this 'short reply:'—'Haughty priest, rash minister, thy impudence shall not 'remain unpunished!'

'This short apostrophe was accompanied with a violent box on the 'ear.'

All the guests looked aghast, the pretty niece wept, tore her hair, and at last fainted away. The Cardinal, as great a man as ever he was, was at a loss how to behave. At length, as the author himself candidly confesses, such surprising conduct threw the whole assembly into great confusion.

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An insult so publicly offered to a priest, and a handsome woman, could not possibly go unrevenged. Anne, of Austria, is informed of the disgrace of her dear Parisatis, she repairs to her to pay her compliment of condolance. The partisans of Monsieur and the friends of the Cardinal interfered, according to custom; Richelieu assembles the doctors of the Sorbonne: they are unanimously of opinion, that it is a direct violation of the holy canons to give a priest a box on the ear. The haughty Gaston, whom the author has represented as thanking the officious queen with all the enthusiasm of which a heart deeply enamoured is susceptible, maintains that the blow was very well timed, and maliciously sends the beautiful Parisatis an ecclesiastic relic.

'O love! could'st thou suffer such blasphemies against thy empire!' The disloyal lover replied to Monsieur's messengers, 'that he did not 'chuse to make a fool of himself for the love of a .....' We know not whether the prince concluded; but the author stops here, doubtless, out of respect to the ladies; and we, out of respect to our readers, hasten to the denouement.

Louis XIII. had no hope of an immediate heir, and left little hope of such an event to the queen, or his kingdom. His brother, Gaston, was his only and legitimate heir. It would be a capital stroke to gain over the virtuous Anne of Austria to suffer any other man than her husband to have a child by her. For this purpose the Cardinal, the beautiful Parisatis, and the reverend father Joseph, a capuchin, and the queen's confessor, formed a threefold diabolical league. The capuchin had whispered to the cardinal, that Anne, of Austria, had confessed to him, at the foot of the altar, her liking for C. D. R. and doubtless Monseignieur told it to his pretty niece. The reverend father, and the cardinal waited on the queen; the cardinal, as might be expected from his dignity, spoke first, and the capuchin followed. He, in a learned discourse, quoted the bible and the fathers, maintained that the real adulterer was Louis XIII. since he monopolized what he could not enjoy; and concluded, by assuring her, that a supplementary act is not an infraction of conjugal fidelity; that therefore her Majesty might, with perfect honor and decorum, have a child by a third person. Never did Satan, in Milton, employ more eloquence to seduce the beauteous mother of mankind: but Anne, of Austria, remained unshaken. 'Fie! fie! Monsieur le Cardinal,' replied the queen.

The minister and the confessor, confounded with the failure of this little negotiation, which was intended at the same time to avenge the honor of the prelate, and of the beauteous Parisatis, retired to contrive some new design. The capuchin, without ceremony, proposed to the cardinal to give the queen a love-potion. Richelieu replied, 'that he was 'better acquainted with natural history than the confessor, and that such 'an expedient would not answer.' 'It is certain,' said his eminence, 'that the excessive heat which such an unnatural stimulus would produce 'in the queen, will not be less prejudicial to her than the excessive frigi 'dity of her husband has hitherto proved.' 'I agree,' replied the capuchin. At length the beautiful Parisatis was summoned to the secret council. She knew how to manage matters better than the two gentlemen. The angel of light, to use the epithet which the confessor always employed in speaking of the innocent kinswoman of his eminence, by her sweet smiles, diffused joy and hope in the minds of the two conspirators. It was determined that she should prevail, by some ingenious deception, upon Anne of Austria, her dear and tender Statira, to occupy, for one night,

night, a portion of her bed, and instead of the useless Parisatis, the young man whose beauty had captivated the heart of the queen, should be introduced. C. D. R. did not require to be much pressed, and nine months afterwards Louis XIV. was born, for the glory and felicity of the world.

When reviewing the multitude of wonders which the present age has produced, we should be tempted to make out of this story a new chapter, on great events brought about by insignificant causes; for, in fact, it treats of nothing but an old priest, a young woman, and a box on the ear.

If Mr. D. M. had inserted the words, *An Historic Novel*, in his title page, he might have been pardoned; but when we see such a serious title prefixed to such a book, it is impossible to withhold the most pointed reprobation, as youth, or uninformed people, when a work of this nature falls into their hands, may be so far deceived as to imagine they are really reading the secret history of those times.

Histoire des Suisses ou Helvetiens, &c. History of the Swiss or Helvetians from the most remote period to the present time. By P. H. Mallet, formerly Professor of the Academies of Upsal and Cassel. In 4 vols. 8vo. with a large Map of Switserland.

Our countryman, the celebrated Gibbon, before he undertook his history of the Fall and Decline of the Roman Empire, had occupied himself with different historical subjects, among which was the æra of the liberty of Switzerland. There is no reader, he says, but must take fire at a subject so replete with public spirit, military glory, examples of virtue, and lessons of government. But to write upon this subject it would have been necessary to learn the German language, a task which Gibbon could not persuade himself to undertake.

The history upon which Müller is engaged, is far from being completed. The French translation has already reached the ninth volume, and the historian has yet got no farther than the early period of the Helvetic confederacy.

'It requires all the perseverance of a German reader to venture upon a narrative which is only beginning at the ninth volume. Of this M. Mallet, the worthy author of the history of Denmark was well aware. He has comprised in four volumes the complete history of the Swiss, and they contain sufficient to gratify those whose object is useful instruction. "It is as necessary, says Voltaire, to be silent respecting the herd of kings whose names would only burthen the memory, as to be acquainted with the great actions of those sovereigns who have made their people more virtuous or more happy. Of what utility are the details of so many petty interests which no longer subsist; of so many families long ago extinct, which disputed the possession of provinces, afterwards swallowed up by immense empires?"

If we judge the new *History of the Swiss* by this principle, we shall perhaps find that in certain parts the author has entered at too great length into subjects of inferior importance. The narratives of petty wars, which petty tribes of shepherds made upon each other, or upon the nobles of the adjacent countries, and which were productive of no extraordinary events, only serve, particularly when they are full of proper names, to fatigue the attention, and to divert it from more important facts, from those grand features which are alone worthy of being impressed on the memory.

M. Mallet alludes to this when he says in his preface: "It is more than probable, that many readers will reproach me for having introduced

long, dry, and to them unimportant details; while others will complain upon finding so little concerning the origin of their native towns, the events which have raised them to power and celebrity, their illustrious families, their monuments, and remarkable customs."

When the historian in painting the manners of the age, conceives it necessary to notice certain facts of little importance in themselves, he ought, at least, to avoid that repetition which becomes disgusting. It is well to know that the Swiss were accustomed to kneel down before a battle to implore the assistance of heaven, and after a victory to express gratitude to the Almighty, but it is not necessary to repeat this observation at every battle. After that of Nœfels, gained by the inhabitants of the valley of Glaris, they returned thanks, says the historian, to God, the Virgin, and their patron St. Fridolin, who had so powerfully assisted them in preserving themselves from ruin and slavery."

After these general observations, we cannot help saying, in justice to M. Mallet, that the grand features of the history of the Swiss are sketched in his picture in a manner worthy of the subject. The reader catches the first sparks of that effervescence, which in the 14th century excited the common people to shake off the yoke of their lords, or the great landed proprietors. He sees how the efforts made by the latter to regain that power which had been wrested from them; how their severity towards those whom they termed rebels hastened their downfal. The origin of the Helvetic confederacy is related with peculiar interest, though the author has rejected the fable of Tell's apple, and others of a like nature.

Another grand era in the history of the Swiss, is the war in which they were engaged with Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, whose spoils inspired these hitherto simple people with a desire of wealth, which fixed upon them the character of avidity, that afterwards became proverbial, and has since been confirmed by their subsequent history.

The third great epoch of the history of Helvetia is the reformation; its origin, progress, and consequences, are ably developed by M. Mallet.

It would not be a difficult task to justify our commendations of this work by quotations. The consequences of the successes of the Swiss, employed as auxiliaries in Italy against Louis XII. of France, are thus described:—

'Like all other nations and individuals, whom fortune has too suddenly 'exalted, the Swiss could not defend themselves from its dangerous intoxi- 'cation. The king had found, from fatal experience, that he could not re- 'tain Lombardy while they were inimically disposed. He wished to renew 'their friendship, and began by restoring to them the castles of Lugano and 'Locarno, which were still occupied by his troops. He then proposed to 'send ambassadors to them, for whom the dukes of Savoy and Lorraine re- 'quested a safe conduct. They (the Swiss) refused it, but demanded the 'payment of 22,000 dollars. La Trimouille, Claude de Seissel, bishop of 'Marseilles and Villeneuve, president of Dijon, then repaired to the diet of 'Lucern. Trivulcio likewise appeared there, but for the purpose of de- 'manding his estates in the Milanese, confiscated for the benefit of the Car- 'dinal of Sion. This venerable and illustrious warrior was prohibited from 'any communication with the French ambassadors, and his demand was re- 'jected. The latter were received with still greater haughtiness.

'It is impossible to help thinking that the all-powerful eloquence of the 'Cardinal, the flattery of the Pope, the Emperor, and the king of Spain, had 'gained over all the accredited members of this diet. They told the French 'ambassadors, that if the king was desirous of renewing his ancient alliances 'with them, he must evacuate all Italy; promise, by oath, never to enter 'that country again; obey the Pope's mandate, by which he sought to abo-

'lish,

'lish, throughout all France, the liberties of the Gallican church; take into 'his pay, in peace as well as war, 15,000 Swiss; raise the contributions 'annually paid by him to the cantons to 50,000 dollars; remove the fairs 'held at Lyons to Geneva, &c. They finally enquired of La Trimouille 'whether his master had given him authority to surrender to the duke Sforza 'the citadels of Milan, Cremona, and Genoa, which were then in the pos-'session of the French; and La Trimouille having replied that he had nei-'ther demanded, nor was invested with that power, the Swiss deputies 'informed him, that as this was the case, he might go about his business as 'soon as he pleased.

'This haughty and insolent conduct caused Louis XII. to resolve to make 'peace with the Venetians, who were not less irritated at the pride and 'pretensions of the Emperor. A brilliant and sudden elevation of fortune 'is a great trial for all men, whether emperors, kings, or republicans. On 'this head they cannot mutually reproach each other. In such a situation 'almost all lose their reason, and sooner or later are punished for their arro-'gance.'

It cannot be denied that this method of treating his subject, evinces an historian of ability, such writers do not only compile a journal of events; they decide upon their importance, and make their readers think for them-selves.

Shortly before, in treating of the intrigues of the different Italian powers to attach the Swiss to their interests, the author adds:—'But all that had 'hitherto been done to involve the nation in quarrels, to which it should have 'for ever remained a stranger, had very little effect, till the moment when 'Charles VIII. formed the design, even more disastrous to France than to 'Switzerland, of great conquests in Italy. Nature had not destined that 'prince for a conqueror, when she gave him a weakly constitution, and a 'mean person. Cæsar's Commentaries, and the life of Charlemagne, had 'inspired him with the mad ambition of rivalling them. Thus, a few centu-'ries afterwards the perusal of the history of Alexander brought on Sweden 'the scourge of a warrior king, who, by taking the Macedonian hero for his 'model, ruined the country.'

It were to be wished that all the reflections of the historian were as solid and judicious, and free from the prejudices of education, country, and situa-tion; from unnecessary sallies, and unmerited attacks. In describing the ca-tastrophe, which, in 1489, overturned the authority of the chevalier Wald-man, the usurper of the principal authority at Zurich, he relates how the party in opposition to him procured a young man, who suddenly appeared in the assembly with his clothes wet through, and declared that he had swam across the Rhine to bring the news that the Austrians were approach-ing in force to rescue Waldman. 'This infamous imposture,' adds the his-torian, 'worthy of the late revolutions we have witnessed, produced the 'effect intended by its authors, and hastened the condemnation of the 'usurper.'

In relating the barbarities, ravages, and cruelties, committed by the army of the cantons of Bern and Friburg, at Orbe, Jaigne, and Grammont, during the war which provoked the vengeance of the Duke of Brunswick, he affords another proof how pregnant are all revolutions in scenes of horror and atrocity. 'An executioner, who accompanied the army of the two can-'tons, had orders to throw into the lake of Neufchatel the refugees from the 'Pays de Vaud, who had fled to Estavayer. He, however, suffered some 'of them to escape, as a punishment for which the soldiers murdered him. 'The town was afterwards given up to be plundered. Out of all the citi-'zens only 24 survived!'

We shall present the reader, before we close our notice of this work, with a few more short extracts, tending to produce a favorable opinion of M. Mallet's history.

The Republic of Bern, in the early period of its existence, was attacked by all the lords and petty sovereigns of the adjacent countries, to whom the establishment of the republic was, as may easily be conceived, not a very agreeable event. The principal of these was Count Rodolph de Nydau, of the house of Neufchatel, who was killed in the war between these lords and the state of Bern. 'D'Erlach, the Bernese general, who had immortalised 'himself at the battle of Laupen, had likewise the honor to be voluntarily 'chosen by the princes of the house of Neufchatel, as guardian of the young 'counts of Nydau, the children of the nobleman who had recently fallen 'beneath his arms. Thus the children found a protector in the conqueror 'of their father, and by his (D'Erlach's) care their patrimony was 'faithfully preserved for them. The Bernese approved of this arrangement, 'so honorable to both parties.'

On occasion of the peace concluded with the cantons by Duke Albert, of Austria, M. Mallet proceeds thus:—'This truce, which is frequently de-'nominated a *peace*, in the history of this country, was renewed more than 'once. It was called the peace of Thorberg, after the statesman by whom 'it had been negotiated. It is, perhaps, to be regretted, that this custom is 'not become general; and that instead of the place at which a peace is 'signed, that of the man, to whom humanity is principally indebted for the 'benefit, is not given to it. The desire of obtaining this honor would pro-'bably serve to hasten those tardy negotiations, during which thousands of 'men are butchered with such sang-froid, and frequently for the most trifling 'considerations.'

The battle of Sempach, one of those which decided the liberty of Helvetia, cost the lives of many brave men, among whom was, 'Petermann, of Gun-'dolfingen, their general and avoyer, of Lucern. He died of his wounds 'at the moment when victory decided in favor of his countrymen, and it is 'said, that before he expired, he advised them not to suffer any avoyer '(chief magistrate) to remain longer than a year in his office. A remark-'able admonition from the mouth of a dying man, who was himself an 'avoyer. This was certainly evincing his patriotism to his latest breath.'

In the outline of the late events, which led to the dissolution of the Helvetic confederacy, with which the author concludes his work, he successfully vindicates the cause of the former system against the agents of French calumny. The events, the motives, and scenes, of the Swiss revolution, are painted in lively colours, and ought to operate as a warning to every state that has independence and happiness to lose.

ITALIAN BOOKS.

Relazione di un Viaggio ad Ostia. Narrative of a Journey to Ostia, and the Villa of Pliny, called Laurentium. By the Advocate Carlo Fea, president of the Roman Antiquities, and the Museum of the Capitol at Rome, 8vo. 132 pp.

The present Pope, Pius VII following the glorious steps of his illustrious and unfortunate predecessor, whose name will ever be revered by the friends of the arts, has not only renewed the prohibitions, &c. against the transportation of antique monuments out of the Roman territory, but has likewise taken care to prevent any monument from being destroyed or mutilated. He has formed a design to augment the Museo-Pio-Clementino, and has already removed thither several beautiful statues; besides which,

he has caused considerable researches to be made, and intends to put in execution the design so long proposed of seeking in the bed of the Tiber for productions of art that may have escaped the ravages of barbarians. Of the researches that have been undertaken, those commenced a few years since at Ostia, first attracted his attention; and M. Carlo Fea here gives an account of the journey which he took to inspect those labours, and describes their results.

These researches were carried on under the direction of M. Petrini, a young man possessing great abilities in that kind of pursuit. It was he, who, in the year 1798, found at Mont Circeo 29 statues, three of which were in perfect preservation; a Domitia, a Faun, resembling that which is considered an imitation of the faun of Praxiteles, and a Gladiator; and, in addition to these, a Hog and a Dog. In 1795 he discovered a superb statue of Tiberius, seated, which the late Pope purchased for the Museo Pio Clementino.

M. Fea first treats of the result of the search made by M. Petrini at Monti di S. Paolo, in 1797: he describes several antique fragments, and introduces several inscriptions that have been found there. He afterwards describes the territory of Ostia, and seeks the places and edifices mentioned by the antients, He likewise describes modern Ostia, and its structures, and some antient inscriptions discovered there; and treats at great length of the antient town, the principal object of his researches. He traces its history; he imagines, that at a remote period, in the 5th or 6th century, Ostia was almost entirely deserted, and in ruins, and that this is the reason why the remains of so many structures, antecedent to that period, have been preserved. He compares the representation of the port of Ostia, on Nero's medal, with its antient and present state. M. Fea then gives a more particular account of the researches, but without a map it is impossible for those unacquainted with the local situations to follow him in his explanation. It appears, that statues, busts, and in particular, many curious Latin inscriptions, have been discovered, which are removed to the Museo-Pio-Clementino.

M. Fea afterwards passes to the second object of his journey, which was to ascertain the site of Laurentium, the villa of Pliny the younger, which must have been upon the road of Antium, along the sea shore. He reviews the opinions of all those who have endeavoured to determine the spot where this villa stood, from John Albert Fabricius to D. Pietro Marquez, a Mexican ex-jesuit. It was supposed to have been discovered in the district of Castel Fusano, near the place called Piastra, and now Palombara. Prince Agostino Chizi, the proprietor of the spot, caused a search to be made in compliance with M. Fea's request; the inscriptions found were of Faustinus, and, of course, posterior to Pliny's death. Yet it is not probable, that in so short a space the villa could have been rebuilt. Hence M. Fea concludes, that the site of Pliny's country-house must be sought else where; and he imagines he has discovered it at a spot not far distant, where many fragments of statues, of which M. Fea gives a catalogue, have been discovered.

This learned antiquary has annexed to his work a very curious appendix, containing several pieces extracted from historic collections, and the papal archives, relative to the prohibitions issued successively by the popes, forbidding the mutilation, destruction, or exportation of monuments from Rome. They conclude with the wise regulation made by the present Pope for continuing the researches, a regulation which announces that nothing will be lost, and proves the vigilance of his holiness and his love for the arts.

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The zeal and talents of M. Fea are generally known, and it may be presumed that this preliminary work will soon be followed by more extensive accounts of the monuments already brought to light, and with which the Museo-Pio-Clementino is every day enriched.

Notizie de Analysi Chimica delle acque Termale de Monfalcone. Account of the Chemical Analysis of the Thermal Waters of Monfalcone. By Giov. Ant. Vidali, 8vo.

THE first section of this work contains the history of the Thermal Waters of Monfalcone, which rise in the little mountain of St. Antonio, and form a bason at its foot. It is extremely probable, from the researches of the author, that these waters were known to the antients, and that they were afterwards neglected. In 1433, Nemi, the podesta of Monfalcone, rebuilt the baths, since which period they have not ceased to be frequented. A property peculiar to these springs, and which proves their communication with the sea, is, that they are subject to ebb and flood; the difference between which is estimated, by the author, at 22 *polici*, or inches.

Their ordinary temperature is 30 or 32 degrees, but it varies in different parts of the surface of the water, and at the depth of a few feet it is colder by four or five degrees at the time of the ebb, as well as of flood. The water is always limpid, forms no deposit when set to cool in open vessels; it has a saline taste, and emits a smell of sulphurated hydrogen gas. The various kinds of gas which the author discovered in it, are indicated in the 4th and 5th section; and in the 6th he proves that they contain no particles of iron or copper. The 7th section presents the following results:—After having concentrated 75 ounces of this water, 28 grains of a sandy powder were separated from it, which, by desiccation, yielded a saline residuum, composed principally of marine salt. This residuum being treated with alkohol, and afterwards with water, afforded an aqueous alkoholic solution, containing deliquescent salts, and an aqueous solution, in which were found non-deliquescent salts. What remained was an earthy residuum.

The succeeding sections contain the results of subsequent experiments made by the author.

Trattato delli Alberi della Toscana, &c. Treatise on the Trees of Tuscany. By Dr. Gaetano Savi, 8vo. 260 pp.

THE intention of the author is to make his countrymen acquainted with the trees indigenous in Tuscany, those that have been brought from foreign countries, and such as might be naturalized in the climate and soil of Tuscany.

With this view he gives a concise history of each tree, points out what soil is most favourable to it, the period of their flowering, of the maturity of their seed, the manner of propagation, improving them, &c.

He has chosen the alphabetical arrangement, and divides his work into three parts, the first containing all the indigenous trees; the second, those which have been transplanted with success into the soil of Tuscany, as the walnut, chesnut, cherry, apricot, &c. The third comprehends such as may easily be transplanted into Tuscany, and have already been found to thrive in less genial climates. Each tree is accompanied with its botanic denomination, in the Italian, French, and English languages.

These three parts are preceded by general observations on the culture of forest-trees; and to make his work as complete as possible, the author shews the height at which each tree arrives, and classes them in three columns; the first, enumerating those which reach the height of 25 to 45 ells; the second, those from 12 to 25; and the third, those from 3 to 12.

GERMAN

GERMAN BOOKS.

Reise durch Oesterreich und Italien, &c. Travels through Austria and Italy. By J. J. Gerning, 3 vols. 8vo. 304, 279, and 37 pp. with Plates.

NO country has been so often described as Italy, and there is none on which so much remains to be said, according to each traveller's manner of seeing and thinking.

It was from Italy principally that knowledge and civilization were diffused over the rest of Europe; and if it is no longer what it might be, other nations may be said to be the cause. In every point of view this country affords an abundant variety of highly interesting materials.

Since 1794 M. Gerning has been three times in Italy; Naples is the city where he made the longest stay. In the work here announced, he has collected the different observations which he made during his three Journies, and he has frequently expressed, in a poetical form, the sentiments with which nature and the works of art inspired him. Sometimes he gives extracts and translations, among which are several from Horace.

M. Gerning's route led him through Nuremberg and Ratisbon to Vienna, on which capital he gives varied and interesting details. In his passage from Trieste to Ancona, the author experienced the efficacy of essence of quinquina, mixed with orange juice, against sea-sickness. Almost half of the first volume, and the whole of the second, are devoted to the city and kingdom of Naples: the third contains the author's return. It is here that he speaks of Rome, Frescati, Tivoli, Bologna, Parma, Mantua, Verona, Munich, Augsburg, Ulm, Stutgard, Rastadt, and Heidelberg.

Before he treats of Naples, M. Gerning gives a rapid sketch of the history of that country; it tends to explain what he afterwards says on the character of the inhabitants, particularly of the Lazzaroni. 'Traces of the 'mixture of the victorious nations with the subjugated inhabitants are found 'not only in the manners and customs, but even in the national physiognomy 'of its present natives. In Sicily there are districts, the inhabitants of which 'still bear a resemblance to the Carthaginians and Saracens; and Spanish 'physiognomies are also met with there. The custom of carrying the dead 'uncovered to the place of interment, the head-dress of the women, the 'open and low houses, particularly on the shore of Herculaneum, the habi'tual practice of the inhabitants to lounge before their houses, their love of 'pleasure, and many of their usages, are traces of the Grecian manners, 'which once prevailed in this country. The form of government, and ad'ministration of the towns, exhibit various traces of the Romans. The 'Normans introduced their military and feudal system; the Arabs, their 'pride and their horses; the Germans, their industry and honesty; the Spa'niards, their pomp, generosity, and formality: when to these are added, 'jealousy and avidity, together with the envy and revengeful disposition of 'the Italians, we may then form an idea of the variety which the character 'of the Neapolitans must necessarily present.'

The tax upon cards, in Naples, is farmed for 18,500 ducati; the postage of letters and post-horses for 172,000; and the lottery raises 600,000 ducati.

Towards the conclusion of the first volume, M. Gerning introduces some interesting details relative to Sir William and Lady Hamilton. 'It is not 'long,' says he, 'since Sir William spent 6000 ducati to procure 60 beauti'ful Grecian vases. The sum of 7000 ducati, which he advanced to'wards d'Hancarville's work, was almost entirely lost; but he was more 'fortunate with regard to the Campi Phlegræi, on account of which 'he advanced one thousand pounds sterling, which he was soon repaid, 'and even received a profit upon. Only 30 copies of the work are left. A

'certain

'certain Padre Menage, who resides in Calabria, and was one of the per-
'sons employed in the execution of that work, possesses drawings of the
'islands of Lipari, Stromboli, Ætna, &c. which would afford materials for
'a good sequel to it.

In the second volume are interesting notices on Filangieri, Galanti, Galiani, Zannoni, Paesiello, Picani, Lolli, and the celebrated landscape painter, Hackert; the director of the academy of Naples, M. Tischbein, and his pupil Kniep; and details of the collection of vases of Vivenzio, &c.

We have already said that the riches of Rome occupy the author through a great portion of the third volume. The reader traverses with him successively the ruins of ancient Rome, the Capitol, the Museum Borghese, the Vatican, the Farnese palace, &c. What he says relative to Florence, and, on occasion, of Parma, of Bodoni, and the Abbé Andres; together with his general view of Italy, before he quits the country, will be read with great pleasure.

Kurzer Bericht von der Beschaffenheit der zerstreuten, zahlreichen, Illyrischen Nation.

Concise Account of the present State of the Illyrian Nation, dispersed throughout the Hereditary Dominions of the House of Austria, 8vo. 148 pp. 16 gr.

THIS account was written by the minister Baron von Bartenstein, for the information of the emperor Joseph II. It exhibits the state of the Illyrian nation, from its establishment in the hereditary dominions, under Leopold I. till their expulsion from the thirteen villages which they had formed, during the reign of the Empress Maria Theresa, and states the reasons for this measure. The exiles emigrated to Russia, where their's is the predominant religion, and the thirteen villages remained deserted.

The only Illyrian state still subsisting, is the Republic of Ragusa, which pays a small contribution to the Porte, for the protection that power affords it. The Illyrians, to whom Leopold I. granted certain privileges in 1691, were composed of three tribes, called the Ratizes, or Raizes, the Wallachians, and the Anthenians, all professing the Greek religion. Their number, in the hereditary states, amounts to about two millions. They settled there, at different periods, under Leopold I. Charles VI. and Maria Theresa. During the reign of the latter many Illyrians repaired to Triest, where they contributed greatly to the promotion of commerce. They are divided into provincial and military: the latter living only upon the frontiers, which they have often defended against the Turks. They were maintained in the possession of their privileges till the peace of Carlowitz; but when the Catholic became the established religion of Hungary, they were persecuted as heretics, notwithstanding the immunities granted them by Joseph I. and Charles VI.

The military are not comprehended in the levies of the Hungarian counties. They pay no contributions, but have lands assigned for their subsistence, and are supplied with clothes and accoutrements. In time of war they receive the same pay as the other imperial troops; and in case of war against the Turks, every man capable of bearing arms is obliged to take the field, and to perform garrison duty. Some of these military have joined the Roman Catholic communion; but most of them profess the united Greek faith, and have eight bishops, suffragans of one metropolitan.

The most ancient privilege in favor of the Illyrians is dated in the year 1428, during the reign of Sigismund, king of Hungary. Maria Theresa granted them new privileges in 1763, for the services they had rendered during the seven years' war. These privileges were afterwards repealed, and confirmed again in 1777. The authority of the metropolitan was then limited to ecclesiastical affairs, all others being referred to the decision of the ancient Chancery of Hungary.